



Big Bear News

February 25, 2018

**School Year
2017 - 2018**

Washington University Nursery School



Important Dates:

March 2: Trivia Night
<https://nurseryschool.wustl.edu/wuns-trivia-night/>

March 19 – 23:
Spring Break!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM?

Dear Wonderful Big Bear Families,

As part of our Big Bear Valentine's celebration we took a field trip to the WU post office to mail Big Bear valentines to YOU. We hope you enjoyed them! Since then the Big Bears have embarked on a trip around the world through our study of folk tales. Each day we have been reading a beloved folk tale (or two!) and then marking its country of origin on our meeting rug, which features a map of the world. We have thoughtfully selected stories from African, Native American, Mexican, and Chinese cultures, and we have packed our classroom library full of folk tales from many other cultures as well. Frequently during choice time you can find one of our caring WU work-studies reading an enticing folk tale to multiple Big Bears.

Inspired by the South African folk tale Abiyoyo, the children created a classroom giant as well as their own individual giants using recycled materials. We also listened to American folk singer Pete Seeger's musical retelling of the tale. (Thank you Reading Rainbow!) Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock introduced the children to the Ghanan spider who has a penchant for tricking his fellow animals. We played around with the number 8, using pattern blocks to create shapes with eight sides. We also created spider webs in the art center by rolling marbles contained in cardboard boxes back and forth through paint. The children enjoyed investigating spiders and other insects in science as well. We then read Tomie de Paola's beautiful Legend of the Indian Paintbrush and Legend of the Bluebonnet, and were inspired to create our own flowers using coffee filters and watercolor. Throughout our unit on folk tales, we are filling the writing center with different story starters and inspiration such as pictures of animals, stickers, and stamps to encourage the Big Bears to create their own tales. In addition, with each folk tale reading comes a rich discussion of cultural observations and lessons learned.

We will continue our trip around the world this week, and then move on to the Big Bears' signature spotlight on the alphabet!

Love,
Suzy & Heather



Thanks to Alexis, Cossette's mom, for helping us celebrate Mardi Gras.