



Big Bear News

March 14, 2018

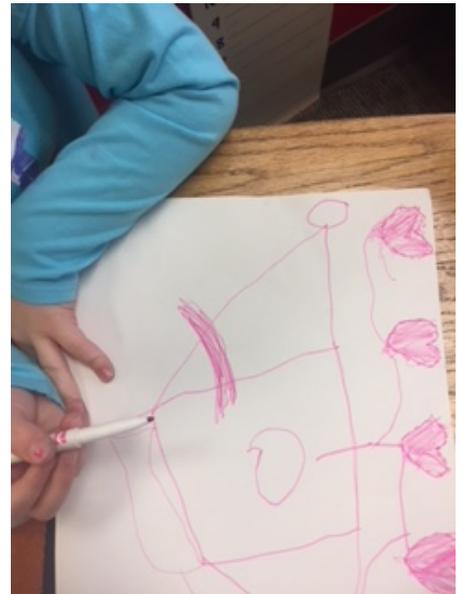
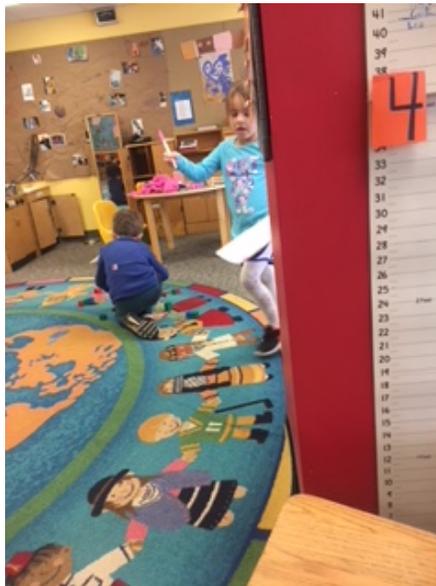


Photo Credit for this newsletter: Leo

**School Year
2017 - 2018**

Washington University Nursery School

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM?

Hello Wonderful Big Bear Families!

Following our trip around the world, the Big Bears have been hard at work - and play! - learning their ABCs. You have been singing "The Alphabet Song" to your Big Bears since they were born - and boy, do they know it! - and that has provided a jumping off point for us in the Big Bear classroom. We have been playing with each and every letter in new and different ways. Each day we focus on one letter and that letter permeates play and routines throughout the day, beginning with sign-in for attendance and continuing through dismissal for outdoor play ("when I call you, tell me a word that begins with the letter of the day").

At the writing center the children are completing a personal alphabet book. This has become part of our daily routine during this unit. On each page they practice writing the letter of the day in both upper and lower case, write a word that begins with that letter (with a teacher's aid in using "dictionary spelling"), and then draw its picture. We have many tools to help them form their letters, including wooden letter blocks and textured letter plates, and we practice writing letters on the carpet and in the air at circle time too. Several Big Bears have also enjoyed "writing around the room" ~ exploring the classroom, searching for objects, colors, and such that begin with the letter of the day, then labeling them with post-its for their classmates to see. Wren, Cora, and Ethan have been particularly enthusiastic scribes!



Important Dates:

March 19 – 23:
Spring Break!

April 6 (Friday)
NO SCHOOL – Teacher
Conference Prep

April 10 (Tuesday)
Dewey's Pizza Night
Fundraiser

The letter of the day has also inspired play in our math, science, and art centers. On letter G day, for example, the children investigated geodes in science, as well as the globe and other geographical tools. On letter F day, the children sketched silk flowers in art and estimated feathers in the estimation jar. On letter C day, they counted cars. In the block area they have played construction workers and garage operators, and pretended to be doctors in our imaginative play center. The possibilities are endless! We also opened a quiet listening area where the children can listen to books on cd, two at a time, while following along with the actual stories in their hands. Dr. Seuss's ABC Book has been quite a hit there!

We want to thank Cat's family for continuing not only our trip around the world, but also our focus on gratitude and kindness. Cat's family will be visiting an orphanage in Costa Rica over spring break, and they invited us to write letters to the children that they will personally deliver once they arrive. Ms. Colleen taught the children various greetings and questions in Spanish that some of them are including in their notes. We cannot wait to hear about the children's reactions! Thank you Tooheys!

Have a happy spring break, Big Bear Families! We will see you on March 26!

Love,
Ms. Suzy & Ms. Heather

