

# BIG BEAR NEWS

2.27.15



*Lanterns for our Chinese New Year Celebration Week*

## **The last two weeks...**

We enjoyed a four day week last week with a day off for President's Day. Upon our return to school, we turned our focus to President's Day and a few of the Presidents of the United States and read books about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and their accomplishments. The children built "log cabins" from popsicle sticks, observed American coins and created crayon rubbings, and played a heads & tails matching game. The Lunar and Chinese New Year fell on Thursday, February 19th. Sabrina's parents, EJ & Chia-Li visited to share their

story of the Chinese New Year. Ask your Big Bear to retell their remembering of the thrilling story-it should include the color red and fireworks! EJ then set up a writing/drawing activity where the children could practice making Chinese symbols on red paper to hang at home to "frighten the monster, Nian" away that appears on Chinese New Year. The class also decorated a shirt to wear to bed to celebrate the holiday.

This week we continued to focus on the Chinese New Year and Chinese culture. Louis' family shared dragon's head masks (or lion's masks) that could be worn on Chinese New Year in celebration, to represent Nian. The class has been collectively working on a paper mache project that will become our dragon's mask to wear in a school parade on Monday. Ms. Betsy brought in her rice cooker from home and the children assisted her in making white and black rice, which we ate during snack on Tuesday. We colored uncooked rice with food coloring and rubbing alcohol in ziploc bags and then used this colored rice to create rice collages on cardboard. Play-doh sculptures of dragons came to life in the Art Area, and will be flying into your home soon. Follow this link to learn your child's Zodiac animal according to the Chinese New Year...

[http://www.china-family-adventure.com/chinese-zodiac.html#.VO-h\\_ylH1hA](http://www.china-family-adventure.com/chinese-zodiac.html#.VO-h_ylH1hA)

This year is the year of the Goat/Ram/Sheep.



*Painting from the easel*



*Sabrina's Father demonstrates writing Chinese symbols*

*Ms. Laura visited for music this week and sang "This land is your land" among many others. The kids used rhythm sticks, egg shakers and wonderful voices!*

## This Land Is Your Land

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land This land  
is my land  
From California to the New York  
island;  
From the red wood forest to the  
Gulf Stream waters  
This land was made for you and  
Me.  
As I was walking that ribbon of  
highway,  
I saw above me that endless  
skyway:  
I saw below me that golden  
valley:  
This land was made for you and  
me.  
I've roamed and rambled and I  
followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her  
diamond deserts;  
And all around me a voice was  
sounding:

This land was made for you and  
me.  
When the sun came shining, and  
I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and  
the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was  
chanting:  
This land was made for you and  
me.  
As I went walking I saw a sign  
there  
And on the sign it said "No  
Trespassing."  
But on the other side it didn't say  
nothing,  
That side was made for you and  
me.  
In the shadow of the steeple I  
saw my people,  
By the relief office I seen my  
people;  
As they stood there hungry, I  
stood there asking  
Is this land made for you and  
me?  
Nobody living can ever stop me,  
As I go walking that freedom  
highway;  
Nobody living can ever make me  
turn back  
This land was made for you and  
me.



*Construction work in the Block Area*



*Chinese New Year Signs*

Coming up...

~the Month of March and  
Springtime fun!

~Friday, March 6th:  
Indian Holi Holiday and  
celebration

Enjoy!

~Ms. Suzy & Ms. Betsy:)