



Early Childhood Research Center

ECRC Newsletter

Spring 2017 • February

Dear Families and Friends of the ECRC,

We kept warm and relaxed throughout January, as we hibernated with our bears and many other animals: hedgehogs, skunks, and bats! Pajama day helped us to fully embrace and investigate this deep sleep that animals use to conserve energy during the winter months. Below are a few of our favorite pictures from our exciting event!

We are fortunate to have such a diverse community at the ECRC. Please feel free to share your culture with our students at school. We welcome families to come read our students a story, or even join us during playtime or snack!



Bring a Bear & Pajama Day!

ECRC Curriculum

The month of February has us celebrating many special holidays. We are learning about the Chinese New Year, the year of the Rooster, through the first week of February. The following week will be all about love and kindness, as we embrace Valentine's Day. We will finish up the month recognizing Children's Dental Health Month by exploring dental hygiene, such as teeth brushing and flossing. Here are some great books to celebrate these special occasions with your child:

- My First Chinese New Year by Karen Katz
- The Day it Rained Hearts by Felicia Bond
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- Going to the Dentist by Anne Civardi

-Keely O'Connell

Updates from our Associate Director

Our next tuition due date is:

February 20, 2017

Summer & 2017-2018 Enrollment

Our 2017 Summer Enrollment and 2017-2018 School Year Enrollment are officially open to the public. Spots are filling quickly! Please contact me to enroll your child.

Thanks!

- Corinne Eggleston

Upcoming Events & Reminders

- **Valentine's Day Exchange – Monday, February 13th & Tuesday, February 14th**

We are looking forward to our Valentine's Day Card Exchange! Please bring "signed" Valentines cards for your child to pass out to each of their friends. Please **do not** put recipients names on each card. An invitation with details for our exchange is included with this newsletter.



University at Buffalo

Graduate School of Education



ECRC Preschool I

Spring 2017 • February

Our Favorite Activity

“Quality mathematics is a joy, not a pressure. It emerges from children’s play, their curiosity, and their natural ability to think.” – *Building Blocks Curriculum*

We continue to build upon our students natural curiosity and love for math in their every day lives. Patterning is about recognizing connections, relationships and links and is a foundational mathematical principle. Our students used shape blocks to recognize, repeat and extend patterns. Take a look at Colette repeating a pattern all by herself!

- Miss Cai & Miss Paige

Happy Birthday to...
Colette – February 15th



Everett and Konner love to climb and jump on our obstacle course with Mr. Dan.



Muhan, Nina, Konner, and Ryan practice utilizing science tools, such as the magnifying glasses and the scale.



Kennedy and Natalie work together to make winter trees.



Konner observes our “snow storm in a jar” science experiment.

Try this at Home

Print Concepts

It is not only important for your child to be interested in listening to a book, but also for them to learn how to use a book.

Recognizing and talking about parts of the book, such as the title, author, front, and back of the book allow your child to learn how a book works.



Logan makes hot cocoa with shaving cream based paint.





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Preschool II

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Our Favorite Activity

It is important to incorporate alphabet knowledge in a fun and engaging way. Alphabet knowledge encompasses naming the letter, forming the letter, and recognizing the sound(s) of each letter. With a focus in the classroom on winter, we made our letters with “snowballs” or white stickers! This activity provided an opportunity for us to discuss and create the letters. Below, you can see how much Daniel, Nora, and Maddigan loved this activity!

- Miss Norline & Mr. Stanley

Happy Birthday to...
Maddigan – February 8th
Owen – February 26th



Luca, Sandy, and Daniel collaborate by planning and building a cave for animals to hibernate.

Try this at Home

How else can we practice our letters?

There is purposeful literacy everywhere around us: on the road when driving, in the grocery store, etc. Discuss the words and letters that your child recognizes around him/her.



Linneae, Maddigan, and Isabella begin their Visual Arts piece with watercolors.



Daniel and Isha explore shades and tints by mixing white and black with blue.



Owen builds an igloo with sugar cubes.



ECRC PM Preschool

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Our Favorite Activity

A fun fact that we learned this month was that a black bears foot can be up to about 12 inches long. To help children envision the difference between the sizes of their feet vs. a bear's foot, we created a bear sized foot and encouraged the students to paint with their feet to compare the sizes. This interdisciplinary activity allowed us to use vocabulary such as smaller and bigger and encouraged students to work together as they helped each other. Isabella and Rosaria enjoyed visualizing the comparison!

- Miss Ashley & Miss Wei



Griffin and Julianna practice balancing in yoga!



Akhilles and Evan develop fine motor strength as they tread cheerios.



Peyton uses the tongs as she practices counting 'snowballs,' while Tyler paints with them!



Try this at Home

The art of creating with paint!

Painting is essential for young children to express their creativity. Young children benefit from painting as they develop their fine motor skills by holding and moving the paintbrush and consider scientific principles as they mix the colors. However, there is much you can do with paint! Try mixing some school glue and shaving cream into your child's paint. They will not only love mixing it, but this provides some added sensory fun!



Nolan loves to pattern with shape blocks.



Eden creates a hibernating hedgehog out of clay.



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Our Favorite Activity

We have begun a new practice in our Pre-K classroom that we are happy to share with you! Our students love to help us, so we have developed a job chart to include everyone in our daily happenings. Some of the jobs include helping pass out bowls and cups at snack and counting the friends or teachers at afternoon meeting. These 'jobs' in the classroom foster independence and responsibility in our students, while encouraging mathematical concepts as they learn to use a chart. Ask your child what their job was each day, as we are sure they will be proud to share! Below, Mr. Dan assists Oscar and Nola as they choose their own job.

- Miss Keely, Miss Corinne, Miss SeungJung, & Mr. Dan

Happy Birthday to...
Oscar – February 25th



Try this at Home

Patterning with our Bodies

It is fun to create patterns out loud with your hands and feet. Encourage your child to create and imitate patterns that each of you creates.

Jackson, Steele and Oscar make their hibernating hedgehogs out of clay!



The silly faces of Pre-K!



Sophia and Mr. Dan loved our snowstorm science experiment!

Trenton, Jackson, Sandy, and Sophia practice writing the letter 'V' with Miss Keely.



Nola uses bears to add 10 and 2 together.

