

# News from the Nest

D.C.H. Kindergarten update

December 22, 2017



Dear Families,

We would like to thank you all for your generosity during this holiday season. We hope that you have a wonderful long weekend with friends and family.

This week we were lucky enough to have an extra visit from our Spanish teacher, Alexandra. The children have a lot of fun practicing their vocabulary skills and playing the musical games with her.

Jayma

## Special Reminder:

There will be no school on Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday January 1<sup>st</sup>. Enjoy the long weekends!

**Science:** We wrapped up our food unit this week talking about our favorite foods and the importance of exercise to keep our bodies healthy. Early in the week, children completed their "My Health" mini books from last week by drawing their favorite way to exercise. On Friday we explored a digital issue of our Weekly Reader magazine called "Stay Healthy at School." We talked about ways to stop germs from spreading in order to keep our bodies healthy. Our SCI-FRI experiment this week involved testing out what happens when gummy bears are exposed to various conditions.

**Math:** On Wednesday we decided to take a class poll of which of four popular foods was the class favorite. As a class we made a tally chart of who liked pizza, hamburgers, chicken or hot dogs the best. We talked about making a diagonal line when you get to five on a tally chart, and how you can skip count by fives to total up your amounts. After tallying the results, children created their own bar graphs and answered a few questions about the most and least popular choices. On Thursday we read a popular children's book by Eric Carle called The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We learned that adding is really just counting groups of numbers together, and children practiced this skill by adding up the total amount of food that the caterpillar ate in the story. We will continue to work on these skills in the coming weeks.

**L**  
**I**  
**T**  
**E**  
**R**  
**A**  
**C**  
**Y**  
**CORNER**

This week we completed the third and final week of our food unit in the Treasures Program. The vocabulary words we discussed were *tradition, menu, fresh, devour, and delicious*. Our new additions to the word wall were "in" and "an" and we reviewed previous words as well. The read-aloud story was a Belgian folktale called "The Soup Stone." In the afternoon we also read a different version of the story called Stone Soup and compared the two versions. Throughout the week we read several stories that related to food. On Tuesday we read a story called Yoko by Rosemary Wells about a Japanese cat that gets teased for bringing sushi to school. In the end her class learns about the different cultural foods that they each enjoy through a class celebration and Yoko makes a very special friend. Our Lively Letters phonics pair for the week were /ch/ and /j/. These "short air" sounds are made with the same facial movements, but the difference between them is that your voice in "on" with /j/ and your voice is "off" with /ch/. We also learned another sound early in the week, /sh/. This sound, although similar to /ch/, is a "long air" sound. Children did well with distinguishing the sounds in various phonics practice activities.

## Handwriting

We learned an entire new letter group in our handwriting journals this week called the "Magic C group." As you can imagine, all of the letters in this group begin by making the letter "C". The letters in the group are "C", "O", "Q", and "G". We also met a new special character called "Magic C Bunny" who helps us air write our letters and will return in the coming weeks with a fun rap song when we learn the lowercase "Magic C letters."