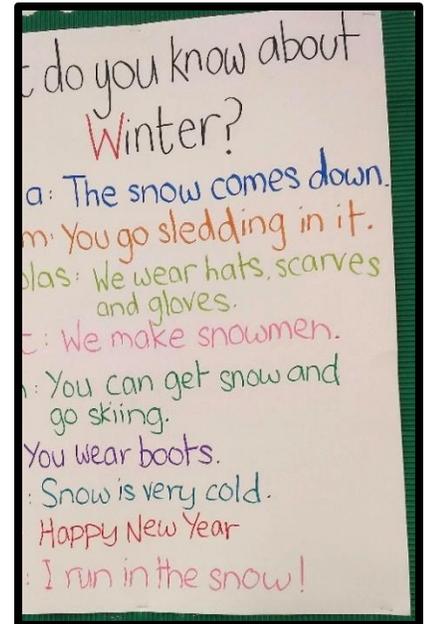


January/February 2021

We are so excited to welcome in the new year! Although we have been enjoying the last several months of 2020, being together at school again, it is hard not to look ahead with growing optimism!

Throughout the school, all of our students are enjoying the transition to winter, eagerly awaiting a deposit of fresh snow. The groundhog saw his shadow and we definitely expect six more weeks of winter! Valentine's Day had our students showing kindness and love to their friends at school and enjoying a treat or two! Our librarian created an "I love to read" calendar for the month of February with different book suggestions for each day. Our students had so much fun reading at home with their families!



In the **Twos**, students are fully engaged in a winter study about animals that hibernate, penguins and other cold weather animals. Explorations with freezing and melting ice are hands-on and exciting as the children predict what may happen. Ice painting, shaving cream "snow" and igloo building were explored in individual and group work. Snowy night



sky murals and bear caves are being constructed in the class's dramatic play area, providing our students with an exciting backdrop for play and storytelling.



The **Threes** are full speed ahead with each class working on a different theme. It's back to the Jurassic period in one of our Threes with an in-depth study of all things dinosaur. "Hatching" dinosaur eggs and creating fossils were two big highlights. The children became experts at differentiating between the based on their characteristics. They made their own skeletons and excavated bones and fossils from dino dig bins!

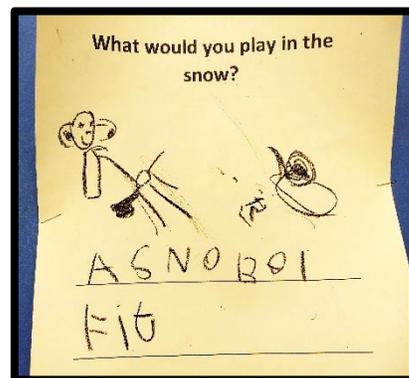




An in-depth study of dogs was happening in another Threes room and it evolved into an understanding of disabilities that some animals overcome. Bow Tie Boone, a dog who uses wheels for his back legs, was a big hit when the children read his story. They even had the opportunity to have a Zoom call with his mother-owner to meet him. Dramatic play was turned into a veterinarian's office and kennel, with many gentle hands grooming and caring for the dogs.

A subway car appeared in another Threes room with the children planning out their own subway maps and where their trains would take them. They were all excited to board "The Kindness Express" train, where MetroCards were used and conductors made announcements. Tracks were built and the children made the longest one they could by working together and using every piece of track they could find!

In the **Fours**, the students continue with their letters and sounds and expanding their understanding of math. Candyland has become a big hit, which not only supports counting, but the all-important social skill of turn taking. Self-portraits are taking on more detail and our Word Wall is expanding to new words that we use in our journaling.



Jack Ezra Keats was the author of the month and *The Snowy Day* became a mural that the class collaborated on. Shaving cream and glue make awesome snow drifts! Our budding artists learned about Monet, Mondrian, Basquiat and Jim Dine. After being shown some of the pieces from each artist, each child worked on their own interpretations using an array of materials.

We hope that you will visit our Director's Corner next month as well!

Becky Laird + Nancy Baldaro