

KM News

Week of Jan. 5th-9th



Water Unit: This month, we will focus on the characteristics of water, learn about snow and ice, and experiment with water. The kids will learn how to make predictions, share observations, ask questions, and compare and contrast. Our literacy, math and artwork will also center on the theme of water/snow.

This week we talked about what we know about water. The kids brainstormed answers to questions about water, such as: What does it look like? What do we use it for? Why do we need it? We read a book called Water by Frank Asch, which has beautiful, colorful watercolor illustrations. These pictures inspired many kids to make their own wonderful watercolor paintings in the art center. During group time, the kids brainstormed a list of places where we can find water (ocean, pond, snow, clouds, tears...), and used these ideas for their own individual books about water. They filled in the sentence frame: Water is in the _____ on each page and illustrated with colored pencils.

This week we also talked about another form of water- snow! The kids enjoyed listening to several winter stories about snow and snowmen. Annie and The Wild Animals , Tacky The Penguin, and Sadie and The Snowman were a few favorites. We also read a snowman rebus poem called The Chubby Little Snowman, and used hand movements for different parts of the text. The kids also enjoyed singing "A Sledding We Will Go" this week.

Did you know that no two snowflakes are alike? We looked at a wonderful book of snowflake photographs and talked about the attributes of snowflakes. The kids were amazed to see these beautiful magnified snowflakes, and were eager to point out their favorites. I demonstrated how to create radiating (symmetrical) patterns with pattern blocks, and then the kids created their own special snowflakes. They made wonderful patterns!



Open Circle: This week we talked about feelings. The kids brainstormed different feeling words and then looked at pictures of children showing different emotions. The kids shared what they thought that child was feeling and we had a good discussion about body language. Discuss feeling words at home ☺.

Stay Days: During Stay days this week, the kids reviewed all the capital letters in their handwriting books. We also read It Looked Like Spilt Milk, which is a story about cloud shapes. The kids created cloud paintings by putting a blob of white paint in the middle of their paper and then folding the paper in half. The kids were excited to open their paper and see the cloud they had created. After looking at their cloud for a while, the kids wrote down what they thought it looked like, using a sentence frame from the book: ***It looked like a _____, but it wasn't a _____.*** ***It was just a cloud in the sky.*** They really enjoyed this activity.



On the second stay day this week, the kids created another symmetrical snowflake with pattern blocks and then copied it by gluing paper pattern blocks onto paper. The snowflakes look beautiful! Take a look at a couple of photos on the website.

Along with symmetry, we will be working on a counting, comparing and measuring math unit for a couple of weeks. This week, the kids learned a game called "Top It," which is a fun way to work on comparing numbers. Next week the kids will compare lengths of objects, using non-standard units of measure.

Questions of The Week:

- What did you learn about glue this week?
- Who came in for Guest Reader?
- Can you recite the Chubby Little Snowman Poem for the family?
- What was the new Animal Silly Sentence this week? (I- Ingrid The Inchworm)
- Can you think of words that begin with I?
- What is a "magic e" word? (The e makes the vowel in the middle "say its name": cake, game...)
- What was your favorite story this week?