



KM News

Week of Jan. 12-16

Snow/water unit: The kids are very excited about all the experiments we are doing. We have read several great fiction stories about snowmen, such as All You Need For A Snowman, and The Missing Mitten (ask your child where the mitten was found). We also read funny Tacky The Penguin stories and Trouble with Trolls by Jan Brett. We have been reading winter words and brainstormed words that end in ow, such as **snow**. The kids put together a "dictionary" of winter words to use when they are writing. Please have your child keep his/her book on hand at home. (It is also a perfect book for beginning readers to read to their parents) This week, we sang our winter songs and learned a new one called "*Fat Little Snowman*." The kids can use the feltboard pieces for this song at the Story Telling Center. We also read nonfiction books about water and the water cycle this week.

Conducting impromptu (and some planned) experiments was a fun part of our week. We decided to take two cups of snow, one packed and one fluffy. The kids made predictions about which cup of snow would melt faster. Ask your child what happened! After the snow melted, I asked the kids if they thought the water would freeze if we left the cup outside over night. The next morning some of the kids were amazed to see a cup of ice! ☺ We also predicted how long it would take the cup of ice to melt- it was quite a long time! As we do these experiments, we are comparing, contrasting, predicting, and describing observations, just like scientists.

Later in the week, we read a book called Martin's Big Words, which is about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. We discussed how we could help Martin Luther King Jr. fulfill his dream for everyone to be treated equally and with respect. We brainstormed ways to show kindness toward others, and then made a class book called *Kindness Is..*

Here is a list of the kids' ideas:

- Kindness is ...
- taking care of someone at the hospital. Steven
- letting someone sit with you on the bus. Aidan
- helping to take care of my brother. Maja
- loving eachother. Katherine
- giving a Valentine. Abby
- kissing. Lena
- having fun with someone. Anthony
- hugging someone. Samantha
- hugging someone to make them feel better. Isabelle
- loving your whole family. Madeleine
- helping people if they are sick. Charlie
- sharing with others. Will
- doing chores for someone. Chloe
- saying "do you want to be friends?" John
- liking your family. Kris

- giving people pictures that you made. Alex
- bringing friends to the baseball game. Owen
- loving your Mom, Dad, sister and brother. Said
- helping to take care of your sister. Kady

We have been working on vowel sounds for the past couple of weeks. All of the kids would benefit from vowel practice at home. For example, if your child is writing something at home, encourage him/her to add vowels to his/her words. I use picture prompts to help them remember the sounds, such as A/Apple. Vowel sounds are important to master, since they are in every word! Even our readers need practice with vowels (and blends, etc..) since they are not always confident with vowel sounds when writing independently.

Special Events: We enjoyed listening to the Band and Chorus this week during a Winter Concert.

Stay Days: The kids spent time learning about the water cycle this week. We read a book called Where Do Puddles Go? And watched a Magic School bus episode called _____

The kids enjoyed making water cycle necklaces with different colored beads representing parts of the water cycle. Ask your child to show you their necklace and the picture sequence of the water cycle. The highlight of our week was our water experiment day. The kids spent time exploring water in several ways. They discovered what objects/food have water in them, tried dropping water onto different kinds of paper to test for absorbency, and also did a water droplet race. Thank you to Amy Grace, Lisa Rich, Jill Purpura, Kim Walker, Amy Gianakis, Jody Foster, and Christine Velyvis for all your preparation, time and patience!

During math time on stay days, the kids learned about the word inventory. I told them that I needed to know how many of each colored marker we had in the marker cans, so that I could replenish the low colors. They partnered up and came up with a system for sorting, counting, and keeping track. The recording aspect of the project was a great way for the kids to see the importance of using numbers/pictures to document information. In this case, I told them that I needed to be able to understand their notes and numbers, in order to accurately replenish the markers. I also asked them to give me the total number of markers in their can. They had different approaches to counting the number of markers in their can. Some kids added the numbers of each color on their recording sheet, while others just counted all of the markers in the can. Some counted by twos, while others counted one by one. It was a very interesting process.

This week, the kids also learned a snowman dice game, which they played with partners.

Have a great long weekend! Julie