

Dear families,

It was so nice to see all those smiley faces on Monday morning! We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We kicked off December with a busy, winter- and holiday-themed week featuring an ice experiment (to match the cold temperatures outside), snowmen, Christmas trees, winter-themed yoga, Spanish, the letter D, and ugly sweater festive fun!

After discussing the colder temperatures (and the chance of snow in our area), we read lots of books about snowmen and discussed what happens to ice and snow when the sun comes out. We did a fun science experiment in which we investigated what causes ice to melt more or less quickly - salt, warm water, cornmeal, being outside, or being inside. After freezing water in a water balloon and peeling the balloon away, we created ice balls that we exposed to 5 different conditions and observed what happened. As it turns out, the ice balls in both the warm water and salt melted the fastest while the ice in the cornmeal melted the slowest because cornmeal acts as an insulator (much like a cooler you might take to the beach). After completing our What Did You See? observation sheet, we had some fun making "melted" and "slushy" snowmen using fluffy paint and pieces of construction paper.

As we gear up for Christmas, we introduced the children to Arthur Ginolf's *The Tiny Star* this week, which is a sweet, age-appropriate retelling of the Nativity story from the perspective of a tiny star who proudly shines her light on a very special baby. This book will serve as the foundation for the play your children will be performing at the Holiday Show on Friday, Dec. 19th.

Decorated trees also featured prominently in our week including an introduction to the shape of a triangle. The children made torn paper Christmas trees using a twist to our usual torn paper art activity. With a triangle drawn on paper to guide them, the children had to tear green paper strips of different lengths and use careful spatial reasoning as they glued the longer strips on the bottom and the shorter strips on top to create a triangle shape. Some children chose to tear paper in order to add a star and ornaments to their tree. We also worked together to make a class painting of a giant Christmas tree which we will have fun decorating in our classroom this month.

This week we also dove into the letter D and had a delightful Show and Tell featuring Dumbo, a dragon, a donut purse, a dump truck, a dinosaur, rubber ducks, plush dogs and a rein"deer"! We capped off our week by freeze dancing to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"!

Books We Read:

The Snowman Storybook by Raymond Briggs

The Jacket I Wear in the Snow by Shirley Neitzel

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed some Snow by Lucille Colandro

The Snow Thief by Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater

The Tiny Star by Arthur Ginolfi

No Two Alike by Keith Baker

Duck on a Bike by David Shannon
Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin
Snowmen At Work by Scholastic

Looking Ahead:

- For next Friday's Show and Tell, we would love to have the children bring in a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to a child in need this holiday season. The 4s teachers will deliver the toys to the Toys for Tots toy drive on Saturday, December 13th. We hope this is something you will enjoy doing with your children. We know our collection of toys will bring smiles to lots of children's faces.

- Holiday Traditions - please fill out the Holiday Traditions page and return it to us by Monday, December 8th. We are excited to learn about everyone's favorite holiday traditions!

- Our Holiday Show will take place on Friday, December 19th immediately following the 3's performance in Parish Hall. Please plan to drop your children off at our usual Maple Avenue door at 9:10 - we'll have a chance to do a quick run-through, put our costumes on, and make our way to Parish Hall where we will plan to meet you all for a 9:30 showtime. Our morning will wrap up after the show.

Have a great weekend,
Kristen and Beth













