

# Happy New Year

What a sweet and cozy time we had in December. Thank you ALL for the wonderful Christmas Party! The children really worked hard on making it special for you and they sure enjoyed those cookies and playing the game too. THANK YOU!

To recap the month of December, we started the month off with the story *The Mitten*. To help us get in the mood for winter, we created a classroom fireplace. The children worked very hard on all the coloring and even picked the colors for the fire. We read *The Mitten* several times to the children and worked on their recall skills with the story. We let the children retell their own story of *The Mitten* at the flannel board using pictures of the animals and sticking them on the board. We created mirrored imaged mittens in classic Christmas colors, which we hung above our fireplace. The children engaged in several different Mitten activities such as match like mittens, counting gems with mittens and even working on getting real mittens and gloves on their hands during work time. We also used watercolor paints to create a light boarder on our red board in our classroom. We worked on decorating a small Christmas tree with lights and candy canes. The children used pipe cleaners and cut straws that they strung on the pipe cleaner to create the candy canes for the tree. Using our practical life skills we prepared fruit and vegetables by washing them up and then we prepared them to eat by cutting them up. I think the favorite thing this month was playing with the fake snow. The children explored a mixture of baking powder and hair conditioner, which created a great packing texture for the children to create with.

For the month of January we will be talking about "Snow". Hope we actually get some to play outside in. However, we will be creating snowmen, counting snowballs, matching snowflakes and experimenting with ice painting. The children are welcome to bring in books of their own to share that has to do with winter. For the second part of January we will be talking about "Penguins." We will try walking like a penguin, huddling like penguins to stay warm, carrying eggs on or feet, and creating a penguin of our own. We will be introducing new phonetic sounds for the month which will be "t" and "s". We will be sorting those phonetic sounds, as well as other activities, which help the children learn those particular phonetic sounds.

Looking forward to a great year and lot's of learning ahead.  
Thanks a ton for helping us to make that all possible.

Miss Zavaski

