

# Learning Tree Preschool

## Seedling News

*"Where the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today"*

January and February 2017

### Director's Report

Happy New Year! I hope 2017 brings you good health and much happiness!

So many wonderful activities went on during November and December like Thanksgiving feasts, Lunch with Santa, lots of sparkly crafts and sing a longs, Pajama Day, Movie Madness, and holiday parties just to name a few. It is amazing how quickly the time went by and now here we are in another new year! I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and New Year!

The fun will continue throughout January and February. The children will quickly fall back into their school routines. Signs of winter, snow and a love for learning will be seen all throughout the school. I am so excited to see how much the children will learn and grow in the upcoming months. It is great to see how much they love coming to school.

In thinking about how much the children grow, January is when we begin our registration process for the next school year. In House registration begins on January 17<sup>th</sup> and will continue through January 28<sup>th</sup> when we hold our Open House to the public. Registration forms will be available the second week in January for all of our current families and alumni. If you know of anyone looking for a preschool, please let them know about our Open House or have them give me a call to set up a tour.

Some other fun events that will be coming up are our Pizza Party in January and Movie Madness in February. Be on the lookout for flyers about these events and more!

As we start the New Year and begin to think about our next school year, please think about joining our Parent Board. Our entire executive board will be leaving this year as will many of our committee chairs. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let me know so I can tell you a little about them and so that I can introduce to the wonderful people who are currently in those positions and they can give you more information.

I wish everyone a Joyous January and a Fabulous February!

~Kara Crespo 

## Important Dates

January 1st & 2nd - School Closed

January 3rd - School Reopens

January 4th - Board Meeting 9:30

January 16th - School Closed

January 17th - In House Registration Begins

January 19th - Pizza Party 5 - 6:30 (Snow Date January 26th)

January 28th - Open House 9:30-11:30

February 1st - Board Meeting 9:30

February 13th - Movie Madness

February 20th & 21st - School Closed



## Happy Birthday



### January Birthdays:

Neave D. - 7<sup>th</sup>

James N. - 9<sup>th</sup>

Christa M. - 11<sup>th</sup>

Sean R. - 19<sup>th</sup>

### February Birthdays:

Finn Z. - 25<sup>th</sup>

# Classroom News

## Mommy & Me

Brrr...we will be trying our hardest to stay warm as we read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and talk about what animals do in the winter. We will have lots of fun staying warm and being creative making our own snowmen inside based on the ideas from the book *Snowballs!* Our paint and play dough for January is an icy blue and we will talk about ice and penguins too!

February is full of hearts and love. Our color and shape for this month will be pink and hearts. We'll discuss our feelings and how kindness makes everyone happy. A Valentine's Day party is always fun, complete with a special card for mom and dad.

We love to celebrate other cultures as well with our lesson on the Lunar New Year! We'll also use a spunky introduction to the alphabet. "Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom" is a fun way to teach children the alphabet. The rhythm of this version of the classic ABCs is sure to have you singing right along with your child.

And of course we'll be checking to see if the Learning Tree Preschool groundhogs see their shadows... so let's hope spring is right around the corner!

-Miss Heather



# Classroom News

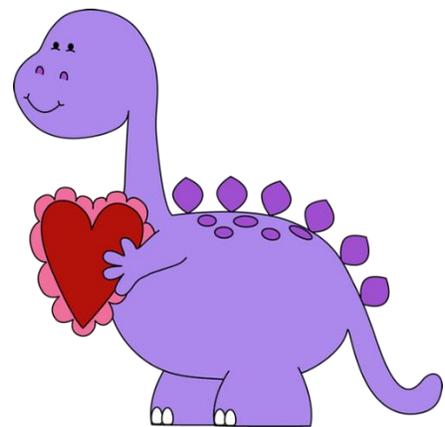
## 2 1/2 Year Olds

Happy New Year! And with the New Year starts our new schedule. We are excited to be at Learning Tree two days a week now on our own! We are getting bigger! I am confident that all of the children will be fine, though mom and dad may shed a tear or two.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! We will have lots of fun with our snow theme this month. We'll be making snowflakes, snow people and ginger bread people. We'll discuss the weather and the fact that it only snows when it is near freezing. We'll also talk about what we wear in the winter weather, such as mittens and hats. Our color for the month is sparkly blue and the kids will love playing with the sparkly icy playdough!

February will arrive with the groundhog and we will talk about seasons and months of the year. This month will also bring pink and hearts and some fun with math and science as we get to enjoy more time at school. The kids will also love learning some special Valentine songs to sing to their special Valentines-YOU!

-Miss Heather



# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Miss Katie

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone enjoyed a joyous and restful holiday. Miss Katie's class accomplished so much in the past two months!

In November and December, we learned about Veteran's Day and spent a lot of time "being thankful." We had fun preparing for our Thanksgiving Feast and learning about the first Thanksgiving. We welcomed our families to "feast" with us and were proud to perform our songs and dances. Miss Katie's class finished off 2016 with much excitement in anticipation of the holidays. We celebrated by singing songs and making gifts and ornaments. Our families joined us once again at our Holiday Sing-Along class party, where they put on a memorable holiday performance!

We learned different ways people might celebrate the holidays. Neave's grandmother, Mrs. Briggs, visited from England and shared how she celebrates Christmas. She read a story and gave each of the children a "cracker" to pop open and find surprises. The class loved meeting her and sharing in circle time!

We have continued with our Letter of the Week curriculum and practiced identifying letters and making their sounds through J. We read books, sang songs and rhymes, and made crafts to help reinforce those skills. We made elephants, flags, and giraffes. The children experimented with ice and practiced putting on our jackets all by ourselves! We will continue to practice that skill in January.

In January, we will review our letters and meet some new ones, K, L, M and N. We will also expand our understanding of winter and seasons. We have much to do and learn! I am very much looking forward to seeing my friends again and exploring each day!

~Miss Katie

# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Miss Kelly

The boys and girls have been busy decorating the classroom for the holidays. We talked a lot about all of the things we were thankful for and learned about the first Thanksgiving. We had a lot of fun making applesauce during class in a crockpot and creating turkey decorations.

Thanksgiving came and went so quickly that we had to get ready for Christmas! The boys and girls made a big Christmas tree out of green triangles for our classroom bulletin board. The stockings were hung on our windows with the students name written in glitter and Christmas trees were painted along with a holiday wish for each boy and girl. Our class had a holiday breakfast along with a gift exchange. We listened to Christmas carols and made reindeer food.

We cannot wait to ring in the New Year and learn about the winter season during the month of January.

We were able to cover letters F, G, H, I, and J. We made art projects made with feathers and glitter. The boys and girls drank hot chocolate with marshmallows. They painted ice blocks on an igloo and made a piece of toast with jelly. After the winter break we will pick up with letter K and continue working on fine motor skills.

I hope everyone has a healthy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Miss Kelly

# Classroom News

## Mrs. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K

December was a full month. The children worked hard on their Christmas crafts and on your gift. I hope you will enjoy it for years to come. Following our discussions about the three forms of matter, the rain cycle, storm and rainbows, the children composed weather related stories which we are reading and acting out in class. The children really love acting out their stories and in doing so, they are able to see their own words come to life.

During January, we will be learning about the winter season and the children will be composing yet another story about snowstorms. We will review previous discussions about animals that hibernate, those that migrate and those that stay in the area and look for food all winter long. We will learn some facts about birds and the names of some commonly known birds. We will also make bird feeders.

February will be another fun month. The children will have the opportunity to exchange valentines in class and will make special envelopes to hold their valentines. We will also have our own little post office in class and the children will be able to send mail to one another and will also take turns delivering the mail. Since February is National Dental Health Month, the children will be learning about different things they should be doing to keep their teeth healthy.

The children have been making progress in learning their phone numbers. Please continue to reinforce this task at home. Soon we will move on to learn our addresses.

I hope your new year brings you good health and happiness.

~Karen Ferrugiaro

# Classroom News

## Miss Cathy's Pre-K

It's hard to believe that 2016 has come and gone! December was a very special month in our class filled with many happy memories! I loved watching the children create our Holiday Elf Story! The children took great pride in making all their keepsake projects, presents and cards. One of my favorite highlights was watching how quickly they learned the song, "Must be Santa!"

I cannot thank my class enough for all your generosity! We had the most amazing Holiday Class Party, and the children went home with the best goody bags ever! I was overwhelmed with all your generosity and your kindness will always be remembered. Thank you for making us feel so loved and special! The children are going to love the class gift!! We are so excited to have Magna-Tiles!

We will start 2017 out by making a time capsule bottle! We will learn how to write the number 2017 and talk about all our wishes for 2017. We will be working on a very fun Snowman Unit. We will make textured snowmen out of glue and make pretend snowmen in snow globes! We will be doing a literacy unit with snowmen. We will read Snowmen at Night, Snowmen at Work and Snowmen All Year, by Caralyn Buehner. We will make our own Snowmen at Night artwork that will fill the hallways! This is one of our favorite units! We will also be making our own snowflakes and learning how all snowflakes are different. We will also do a Science experiment showing how long it takes for an ice cube to melt! We will make predictions on the length of time it will take.

We will also do a fun unit on Hibernation! We will learn all about the animals that hibernate. We will make a cute bear in a cave project out of model magic! We will read hibernating animal books and other bear stories such as; Bear Has a Story to Tell by Phillip C. Stead and Hibernation Station, by Michelle Meadows. We will also make an All About Bear book and have a math center for counting and sorting colored bears.

We are ready to start learning and writing our last names! We will have laminated sheets with our last names that we will start to practice on. We will be learning Jj, Kk and Ll for letter learning! We will sort colored jelly beans, make kite and king projects, we will lace letters and make lemon prints! We also will continue to work in our alphabet books and writing numbers.

February is also a busy month with celebrating holidays and learning letters! We will be learning about Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Chinese New Year and it is also Dental Health Awareness Month! Valentine's Day is one of our favorite holidays! We will have our class party on Tuesday, February 14! I encourage everyone to send in Valentine cards for our class party. If you do so please include all the children. We will make keepsake projects answering the question, "What is love??..." We continue to talk about the importance of love and kindness.

We will be celebrating President's Day with Patriotic Banners and learning about the President. With a new President Elect, we will talk about what a President's job is! We will also make large Black Hats. For Dental Awareness month we will talk about the importance of proper dental care and eating healthy. We will paint with toothbrushes and use shaving cream to demonstrate how to properly brush our teeth.

In February we will be learning Mm, Nn and Oo. We will be painting with marbles, we will make macaroni people, and do magnet experiments. We will sort noodles, do newspaper collages and do number centers! We will also be working in our letter journals! For Math we are going to continue to sequence and sort numbers. We are also going to work on writing our numbers.

**PARENT ALERT: We are in need of Newspapers and Empty Large Tissue Boxes!**

Thank you as always for your contributions!

I love working with your children and look so forward to the start of the NEW YEAR!

~Miss Cathy

# Classroom News

## 3 Year Olds: Enrichment

The boys and girls in Miss Kelly's Wednesday Enrichment Class just finished up the Community Helpers Unit. We learned about all of the important people that work in our community. Each week we learned about someone new and made a page in our community helper book. We learned about police officers, firefighters, doctors, mail carriers and chefs.

Next month we will begin with the Polar Animals Unit and it's just in time for the cold winter weather.

During the Friday Enrichment Class, the boys and girls work on their fine motor skills with extra writing and cutting practice. We have been practicing name writing and will continue practicing into the New Year. We also reinforce the letter of the week with some extra crafts and activities.



# Classroom News

## Pre-K Enrichment

We had so much fun in December doing our Gingerbread Man Unit. I hope that everyone loved their Gingerbread Men Ornaments! Thank you so much for all your generosity over the Holidays! I was truly overwhelmed with all your kindness! It is a joy to share this year with your children and I look forward to the New Year!

We will begin January with a focus on more language based projects and our journal program. We will also be working on writing our first and last name. We always have fun centers out to build up our fine motor skills and in January the students will have a great time making snowflakes and learning how to make all types of shapes! We will have a fun center out with marshmallows and toothpicks learning to make shapes. This is a favorite activity!

In January we will do a winter literacy unit using Jan Brett books. We will read *The Mitten*, *The Hat* and *Three Snow Bears*. These books allow us to explore many aspects of learning. These are great books to practice the Kindergarten skill of retelling a story. We will also work on learning characters, and sequencing the characters. We will make our own mittens, and practice sewing them. Will match upper and lower case mittens up. We will use our imagination and answer the question; “my mitten is so big that \_\_\_\_\_ can fit in it!” We will make mittens where we sequence the characters!

When we read *The Three Snow Bears* we will learn about winter animals. We will learn about polar bears and make our own polar bear projects. We will also be making our own Hat projects!

In the month of February we will learn about penguins. We will learn fun facts about penguins and make penguin puppets. We will make our own penguin mini-books and read penguin books. We will read *Penguins, Penguins, Everywhere* by Bob Barner and *Baby Penguins love their Mama*, by Melissa

Guion. We will play a game with balloons on our feet to see what it would be like to have webbed feet!

We will also be doing a Fun Unit on Chinese New Year. We will learn about the Holiday. We will also look at Chinese writing and try to practice and see how hard it is! We will love to say “Gung Hay Fat Choy”, which is Happy New Year in Chinese!

Enrichment is also filled with centers that enable easy access to cutting, coloring, gluing, painting and sorting which all contribute to the success of writing!

I look forward to a wonderful new calendar with your children and I am so proud all their progress in all areas!

~Miss Cathy



## Committee News

### A Message from the Parent Board Chair

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

Thank you to the Events Committee for throwing another awesome Santa lunch. The kids all had a great time! I would also like to thank them for putting together a fun holiday movie madness. In addition, I want to say thank you to the teachers and the kids for painting the beautiful pictures that were put up for auction. And of course, a big thank you to Yvonne Kelly for all of her hard work putting together all of our school's fundraisers!

In January our school will be having its annual Pizza Party on the 19th. I hope everyone is able to attend this event, as it is always a lot of fun for the kids, plus it gets us out of cooking for a night! In January we will also be holding an Open House on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00. Please help spread the word about our amazing school and all of its wonderful programs!

I hope everyone has a great 2017 full of happiness and health!

~Shannon Schneider



# Committee News

## Fundraising Committee

### Yankee Candle Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Yankee Candle fundraiser! It was a huge success yet again!

I hope everyone is enjoying their purchases. I know there were a couple of people who had difficulties with their orders so I just wanted to thank them for their patience while we sorted it all out.

### Mixed Bag Designs

In February we will be holding our Mixed Bag Designs fundraiser. The school earns 50% of all sales!

This is a fun shopping event with really cute things to get you into the spring/summer season! More information to follow soon!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!!

-Yvonne Kelly, Chair



## Public Relations

Thank you all so very much for your Pajama donations. This year, we were able to donate 56 new pairs of pajamas. The women who run the Pajama Program were so grateful!!!

Also, thank you for your donations of tuna for the Backpack Crew. In January, we will be collecting crackers and February will be instant mashed potatoes. Let's try and fill the box to the top! These donations are helping families in the Middletown area who need food over the weekends.

Open House is January 28th! If you have any family, friends or neighbors that may be looking for a new preschool, please let them know about us! Our families past and present play such a big role in our enrollment every year since almost everyone who registers with us comes here by another family's recommendation. We also have postcards in the hallway that can be placed around the town. Please let me know if you have any questions about our programs or you would like to visit any of the classrooms to see them in action. Also, if you know of any kid friendly places that allow advertising, please take some and drop them off. Thanks so much for spreading the word about Learning Tree!



