



Seedling News

Where the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season! I always find it amazing just how fast time flies. In this second half of the school year, the children will be very busy learning their ABC's, numbers, socialization skills and being very creative. It is so much fun to go into the different classrooms and see all of the fun, learning and activities that are going on!

During the month of January, we will be getting ready for our In House registration and Open House. Can you believe it is already time to start thinking about registering for next fall? Registration forms will be available the week of the 11th. If you have any questions about any of our programs or would like a tour of any of the classrooms, just let me know! I am excited to share that next year we will be offering a drop-off 2 ½ year old program as well as our traditional 2 ½ year old class and Mom & Me. We will also still be offering our 3 day 3's classes as well

as our 4 day Pre-K classes along with enrichment.

The majority of our new families join Learning Tree based on the recommendations of our current families and alumni. If you have any friends, family or neighbors that are looking for a preschool, please let them know about our Open House on January 27th. That is when we open up our enrollment to the public.

We have some exciting fundraisers coming up too. In January we will have our Pizza Party with My Gym. In February, we have Sugar Rush and Movie Madness. Be on the lookout for flyers for these fun events!

I want to thank everyone for their generous donations of hot chocolate and Pajamas in December. The Backpack Crew uses the hot chocolate as an extra little treat for the children during the cold months. We were able to collect 36 pairs of pajamas for the Pajama

Program! They were very grateful! We will continue our donations to the Backpack Crew for the remainder of the school year. In January, we will be collecting boxes of cereal and in February it will be any type of fruit or applesauce cups.

As we begin to look towards our next school year, please consider taking on one of our committee chairs for next year. We are always looking for parents that want to help out with fundraising, events, newsletter, snacks, public relations and class parents. If you have any questions about any of these positions, please reach out to me or our current Parent Board members.

I am looking forward to this second half of the school year! Just watch and see how much your children grow and learn!

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Ms. Kara

A Message from the Parent Board Chair

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope everyone's holiday season was filled with love, family and good food!

What a great December we had here at Learning Tree to celebrate the holidays! The Events Committee threw another amazing Santa Lunch and a good time was had by all! Our teachers and students made some truly beautiful art work that was auctioned off and is going to make a wonderful addition to any house. Last but not least we had another super successful Movie Madness, which gave some moms much needed Christmas shopping time. Thank you so much to the Events Committee, Fundraising Committee, Kara and of course our Learning Tree Santa. You all did a fantastic job again this year!

Our Events Committee also has some great events lined up for us in the coming months as well. The annual Pizza Party will be held on January 18th. Come join us for pizza and some fun activities! Then in February we have a Moms Night out planned at Sugar Rush in Red Bank on February 1st. Moms get to come sip wine, decorate a cake and have a fun night out!

The last item I want to remind everyone about is our Open House on January 27th. Please help us spread the word about our amazing school by telling any family who might be interested to come that morning and check us out!

I hope everyone has a great 2018, filled with happiness and health!

Vanessa Siroti

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 1st - School Closed
- 2nd - School Reopens
- 3rd - Board Meeting 9:30
- 15th - School Closed
- 16th - In House Registration Begins
- 18th - Pizza Party 5-6:30
- 19th - Maintenance Cleanup Committee 6pm
- 27th - Open House 9:30-11

FEBRUARY

- 1st - Sugar Rush Fundraiser
- 7th - Board Meeting 9:30
- 12th - Movie Madness
- 16th & 19th - School Closed



January

- 7th - Neave D.
- 9th - James N.
- 11th - Christa M.
- 19th - Sean R.
- 21st - Logan A.
- 23rd - Ronan M.

February

- 10th - Charlotte D.
- 13th - Katherine Y.
- 25th - Jane E.

Classroom News

Miss Heather's Mommy & Me Class

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! 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

Miss Heather's 2 ½ Year Old Class

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 beautiful snow birds. We will also learn about animals that live in cold climates like penguins and polar bears. 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 this month's sparkly icy play dough!

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

Miss Katie's 3 Year Old Class

Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone enjoyed a joyous and restful holiday.

In January, we will ring in the New Year and study the progression of our calendar. We will expand our understanding of winter and seasons. The children love sharing stories of how they spend the snowy days!

We will review our letters and meet some new ones, K, L, M and N. We will make kites and Hershey kisses, review our letters and make Lego prints, and decorate with mittens and marble paintings. The children will work on fine motor skills, with increased focus on cutting with scissors. We will be introduced to the lessons and legacy

of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., focusing on his messages of peace, love and fairness.

February will begin with a lesson on Groundhog's Day. We will chart our predictions and experiment with shadows. We will meet the letters N, O, and P. We will also learn about and celebrate Valentine's Day and President's Day, and enjoy a visit from the dentist. We will make music and monsters, and talk about the moon. We will create noodle necklaces, and experiment with numbers. The class will create Nighttime city scenes with oil pastels and talk about what they do at night. February may be short, but we will be very busy!

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

Miss Kelly's 3 Year Old Class

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and happy and healthy new year! I am excited to begin the New Year with your little ones and continue all of the wonderful things we have been doing in class.

We will continue to work on one alphabet letter a week. We will begin the New Year with the letter Kk. We

will read stories, do activities and crafts to reinforce these letters.

Miss Kelly's class will be very busy learning about the winter season and all of the changes it will bring. We will decorate the room to make it look like a winter wonderland! We will be reading some classic stories by Jan Brett and Ezra Jack Keats. Hopefully we will have a nice snow storm so we can investigate snow in our Science center and paint with snow in our Art center. We will also write and draw about our favorite winter activities.





Classroom News

Ms. Kelly's Wednesday Enrichment

We will start the New Year learning about the Arctic region. We will learn about this polar environment and explore all of the animals that live there. We will learn about polar bears, the artic fox, the walrus, seal and reindeer. We will also go over the Antarctic region and talk about what they have in common. The boys and girls will also learn about the penguins from Antarctica.

Classroom News

Ms. Kelly's Friday Enrichment

We will be reinforcing the letter that is taught in class during the week with extra activities and crafts. The boys and girls will continue name recognition, spelling and writing. We will be very busy cutting and tracing to build up our fine motor skills. As well as being introduced to classic authors such as Eric Carl, Jan Brett, Dr. Seuss and more.

Classroom News

Ms. Ferrugiaro's Pre-K Class

December was filled with holiday fun. The children made snowman ornaments and made Christmas gifts. Those that celebrate Hanukkah also made Hanukkah gifts. The children learned about thunderstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes, and rainbows. They observed a tornado in a bottle. They also composed and illustrated stories about a storm and/or a rainbow. The stories were acted out in class.

We have been learning about words that are opposites, and we are still working on our phone numbers. Please help your child with this task. As February comes around, we will begin learning our addresses.

During January, we will learn about the winter season. We will review previous discussions about hibernating animals, migrating animals, and animals that stay and search for food. Besides making some winter-related crafts, the children will compose and illustrate stories about snowstorms. They will be acted out in class. We will learn the names of some commonly known birds and some facts about birds. We will make bird feeders.

During February, the children will be exchanging valentines. They will make special envelopes to hold their valentines. I will be introducing a classroom post office. Each child will have an envelope with his or her name on it. There will be forms available where the children will write their name and the name of the child they are sending mail to. They will draw a picture on the form and put it in the envelope and then in our classroom mailbox. Once *each child's* envelope has been mailed, we will have a mail delivery. The children will take turns delivering the mail. Also this month, we will talk about President's Day and learn about dental health.

We have been progressing nicely with our letter books. Please take a little time each week to select sound sharing go over the letter sounds with your child.

Classroom News

Ms. Cathy's Pre-K Class

Happy New Year!!!!

It is hard to believe that December has come and gone! December was a very memorable month in our classroom. We made many keepsake projects and learned new songs and made fun memories! I hope that everyone enjoyed their special projects and bring them out every year and remember the little hands and love that they were made with. Thank you for all your kindness and wonderful contributions to help make our class parties and everyday special!

We will start out the month of January by celebrating the New Year! We will talk about what we want to do in the New Year. We will make a banner where we try and practice writing the number 2018. We will get back to practicing and learning new letters. This month we will be learning J, K and L. We will count as we do jumping jacks, we will count kernels, make kites, and learn to lace! For Math, we will be beginning to try and write our numerals. Numerals are very hard to write for Pre-K students but it is good to try and helps with numeral recognition!

This month we will also be doing a fun Snowman Unit that is filled with Math, Science and Literacy moments. We will be reading; Snowmen at Night, Snowmen at Work, and Snowmen all year; by

Caralyn Buehner. These are some of the children's favorite books.

We will work together to make a class snowman story. The children will answer the question; "What would I do if I were a Snowman at Night..?" We will make fun snowmen projects and do fun Science projects!

We will finish the month of January by doing a wonderful Unit on Hibernation. We will talk about animals that hibernate and those that migrate. The kids have a great time listening to bear stories, such as; Bear has a Story to Tell by Philip C. Stead and Hibernation Station. We will also make bear cave projects out of model magic. We will also be making bird feeders for the birds that migrate in the cold.

This month we will also start to talk about our last names and I will have their last names printed on the clothespin board so they can begin to recognize their last name. I will also have a writing station set up where they can begin to write their last names and even try and write some friends names! We will also be doing more Math Centers so the children can continue to make relationships with numerals. We will also begin to discuss more complex shapes! January is a fun time in the classroom and it is exciting to watch the children on their leaning journey!

February is a busy month filled with a lot of celebration. In February we

will be learning about Groundhog's Day, celebrating Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Chinese New Year. We are also going to be talking about proper Dental Care as it Dental Health Awareness Month.

For letter learning we will learn letters M, N and O. These are fun letters and have many activities to go along with them. We will be painting with Marbles, doing a Newspaper Collage and practice writing the letter O. This month we will also be reading the classic books; Go Away Green Monster and we will be making a monster project. We will also be reading If You Give a Mouse a Cookie! These are books that the children love to read.

Valentine's Day is another very special time in the classroom. We will be reading Valentine books and making Valentine Card boxes. Please try and save the Extra-large tissue boxes. We use these to hold our valentines. If you are going to be sending in Valentines please do so for the whole class.

We will also be doing many fine motor projects and continue to write in our alphabet journals! The kids are doing an amazing job and I am looking forward to the rest of the year with all of them!

As always thank you for everything!

Miss Cathy



Classroom News

Miss Cathy's 4 Year Old Enrichment

We had a lot of fun with our December Enrichment Program! We loved reading the Gingerbread books and loved making the Gingerbread ornaments!

In January we will do a winter literacy unit by reading the Jan Brett books, *The Mitten*, *The Hat* and *the Three Snow Bears*. We will retell the stories by acting out the characters in the book. We will make our own sewn mittens and other fun projects! We will explore math by matching mittens and counting mittens. We will also make one to one numeral connections as we match up mittens! These books are great to learn about

prediction and what will happen next in the book. We will compare the books and talk about what characters are in each book. Look for fun language based projects! We are also continuing to write in our language journals! The children have grown so much with these books!

In February, we will do a fun project for Groundhog Day where we learn about shadows. We will use flashlights to make shadows. We will also complete our Jan Brett Unit! We will learn about winter animals and do a mini-unit on polar bears and penguins! We will learn fun facts and make mini-books!

For President's Day we will begin to explore the concept of money! We will learn what a penny, nickel, dime and quarter look like. We will have fun doing math matching centers! Money is a very hard concept for Pre-K but watch as the children start to talk about money especially in a food store!

For Chinese New Year we will use chopsticks at our fine-motor centers and try and pick up pom-poms! I will also talk about the traditions of Chinese New Year and introduce the children to Chinese Writing! The children are actually going to try and write in Chinese! You will be surprised how well they do! There are so many exciting learning moments in January and February and I look forward to all of them with your children!!

Love,
Miss Cathy



Learning Tree Preschool of Red Bank, NJ
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