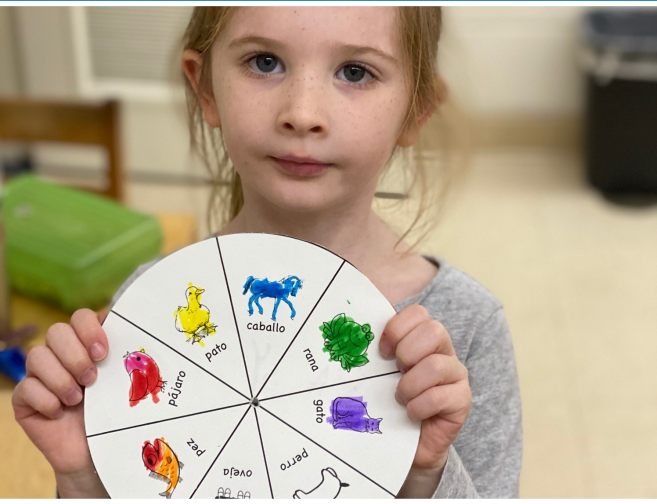


# A Fly on the Wall...



## Senora Poe's Spanish

Feliz año nuevo! We have spent the last two weeks on a beloved children's book: *Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo, Qué Ves Ahí* (Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See). It is a wonderful book that uses repetition to teach colors, counting, animals and fluency in Spanish. In the upcoming weeks, the children will be introduced to emotions, clothing and winter.

## Mrs. Schroeder & Miss Ball's 3s

The 5 Day 3s have been refreshed and relaxed after Winter Break. We are enjoying getting into our Mo Willems unit and discussing his fun characters. We have been working on encouraging our class to leave their toys at home. We have been explaining to the children that if they bring toys there is no room for their school work and other belongings. We also tell the children that when toys come to school they often get lost or broken and we want them to keep their toys safe at home/in the car with Mom and Dad. We will continue to do Yoga and discuss ice, water, snow and crazy weather! Stay Warm!



## Mrs. Smith's & Mrs. Vandenberg's Kindergartens

We are so excited to be starting the New Year with your kindergartener. We have so many things that we will be learning in 2020! We have begun sounding out words, reading small books, and studying characters in stories in language arts. In math, we will be studying weight and measurement, two and three dimensional shapes, tally marks, and the "tricky teens". We are also very excited to be starting our Star of the Week! Please send in boots for the snow and mud, and warm clothes for

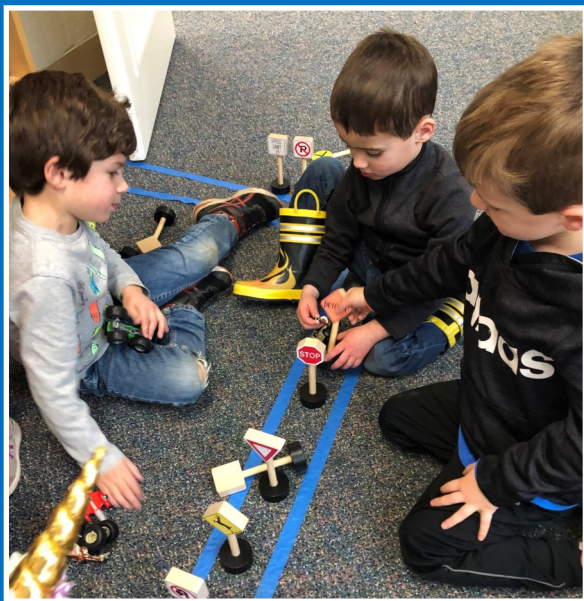
playing outside. Our homework assignment for the long weekend is to have your child practice zip-ping their coat and practice putting on their boots. With the colder weather, we are looking forward to learning about how animals and people adapt to the winter weather. We hope that you have a



## Mrs. Blair's Art

The New Year in the art room has begun with your artists creating snowy winter pinecones for hanging from a window or special place. Many thanks to the Saleh family for bringing us bags full of gorgeous pinecones! We talked about the new season upon us and where pinecones come from. They are stunning! The pre-kindergarten also began making "birch bark" for winter birch trees by using hair combs to "paint" on the bark. They are awesome and will be on the bulletin board soon.

**\*\*Please feel free to bring in any collected nature treasures like those beautiful pinecones, round rocks, seed pods, cool sticks, tree bark, moss, the small baby pinecones, acorns...anything! from your yards for us to use in art-we love creating with anything from nature!**



## Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is ready for anything; wins, losses, cold weather and warm! We have been having fun working on how to get moving when we are stuck inside. Ballon races, indoor hopscotch and "Skee Ball" have been ways we keep Lunch Bunch moving in the cold. We also have been bringing STEM activities to the afternoons by visiting our STEM room and doing activities such as making Lego zip lines and launching marshmallows across the room. Please remember to send in labeled weather appropriate clothing. If your child insists on not wearing warm layers just send them in your child's bag. Lunch Bunch LOVES to be outside!



## Mrs. Craig's PE

We have been celebrating the winter weather by playing snow and ice themed games. Icicle tag was a big hit with all classes! When the children were tagged by an icicle (pool noodle), they could only be unfrozen by catching a "fireball" thrown to them by a classmate. We also had fun bowling with snowmen and playing a snowball toss game.



**Mrs. Wyatt & Mrs. Zuidema's 2s**

Happy New Year!! We hope everyone enjoyed a fabulous holiday, but we are very happy to be back into a routine with our friends. This month we are talking about our pets, winter, stars, and the colors blue. During circle, we shared pictures of our pets and talked about what they eat and where they sleep. We also enjoyed seeing pictures of pets we may like to have if we could. The goats were a personal favorite! During circle time, we have been searching for pets in different colored houses, and singing a song about our pets. Be sure to see the hermit crabs we made displayed on our cubbies. At the end of this unit we will all go home with the perfect pet. Next week we will start our unit on the season of winter, and it looks like the weather might actually be cold. Please remember to send your children with warm coats, hats and mittens. It can be very chilly on the playground in the morning. Please only send gloves if your child can put them on without any assistance. Trying to get 120 fingers into gloves can be very challenging for the teachers. As always, we thank you for sharing your children with us.

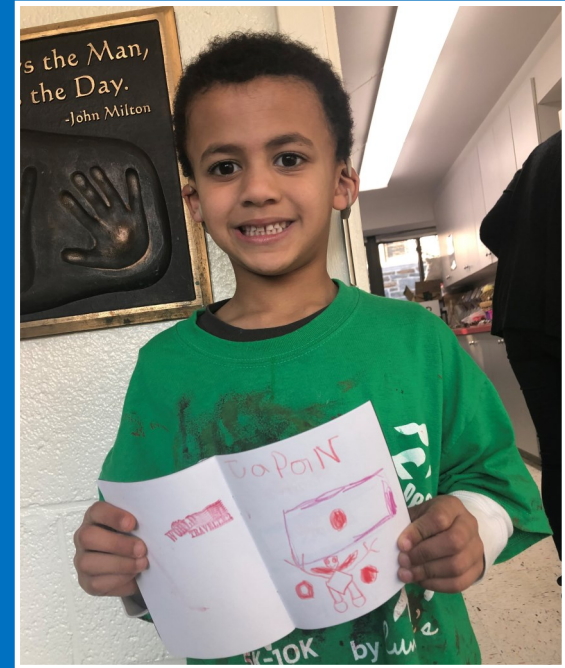


**Miss B's Music**

It's Nutcracker time!! The children are learning about the Russian ballet and dancing and playing instruments to all the dances! They are having so much fun as they listen and watch and experience the wonderful music.

**Mrs. Smith's Values**

The After Christmas Tree by Linda Wagner Tyler is a book about what to do with the Christmas tree after all the decorations are down. Our school will keep the spirit of giving alive by decorating the tree with items to feed the birds and other animals that live outdoors. Thank you to all the teachers that will make this possible in their classrooms.



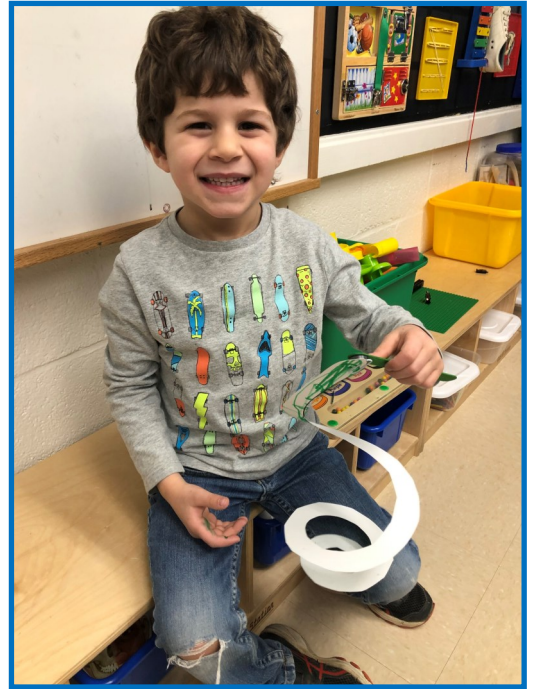
**Mrs. Knott's World Cultures**

Our plane has landed in Japan! After we got through the long line at customs and had our passports stamped, we read a story called, *The Crane Maiden*, written by Miyoko Matsuni and beautifully illustrated by Chihiro Iwasaki. We are excited to explore Japan's culture, cuisine, character writing, currency and traditions. Ja ne!



### **Mrs. Craig's Science**

The Pre-K classes had fun this week with magnets. We explored how the north and south poles of magnets can attract and repel, tested classroom objects to see if they were magnetic, and made snakes that we could "charm" with magnetic wands. Next week we will learn about nocturnal animals: how some have special eyes to see in the dark and play a game that demonstrates how mother bats find their babies using echolocation. Kindergarten is enjoying a Simple Machines unit. Last week we made pulley toys, and this week we made lever and fulcrum seesaws. Next week we will explore wheels and axles by building magnetic cars, and finish the unit using nails (wedge) and screws. Pre-first has started their Physics Unit. This week we explored sound, and how it is created by vibrations. The children all loved our noisy "chicken in a cup" experiment! We also investigated light and learned how to make rainbows using cds, crystals, and flashlights!



### **Mrs. Arrup & Mrs. Baker's Pre-k**

The Pre K has started off the New Year with a running start. We kicked off the letter L with lasers, lions and worked on our fine motor skills with lacing and creating structures with Legos. We have been marching through the letter M this week using magnets, creating marble runs and doing Monster math. We will continue to focus not only on our letter symbol/sound connection but build on number awareness. As you are out and about with your children, please continue to weave letters and numbers into the fabric of your daily routine. They are at such a special age and brimming with curiosity and an enthusiasm for learning. I look forward to an exciting next few months with your little ones.



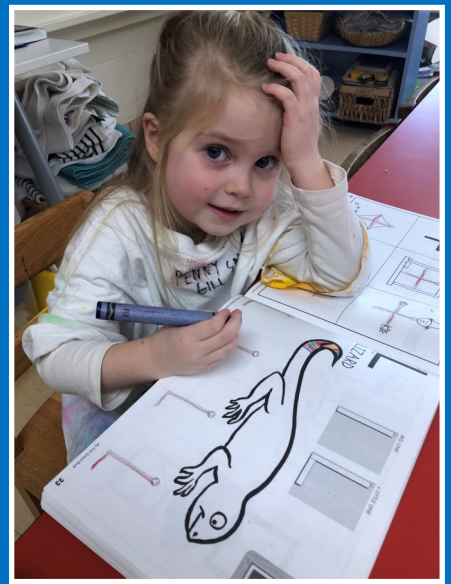
### **Ms. Astley & Mrs. Hobson's 2s**



Happy 2020 from the Astley's 2/2s! January has been a fast and busy month for these fantastic two year olds. This month we have talked about winter, pets, the color blue, the star, and dressing for winter. We have also celebrated lots of Birthdays, which has been so fun! In circle we have talked about our winter weather and pets and we even shared pictures of our own pets! We have painted blue stars, made hermit crabs, pet rocks, and our own fish bowls. Please remember that even with this cold and snowy weather, that we still do our best to go outside. Please send in boots, snow clothes, hats and mittens when there is snow on the ground so that we can go outside to learn and explore. Thank you to all of you for checking your cubbies and making sure that we have plenty of diapers, wipes and a change of winter clothes. I look forward to seeing you all on Conference day on the 28th. Thank you so much for sharing your children with us. They are a pure joy to teach.

### Mrs. Loeb & Mrs. Knott's Pre-k

We are loving the routine of being back in school! It is so much fun to see our friends and talk about our experiences. "M" is a fun letter with much to talk about – Moms, M&M's, monsters, matching, macaroni and cheese, marshmallow math, Mat man, marching, - Whew! We are decorating an "after Christmas tree" for our birds and squirrels, with a party to follow with the other Pre-k class (fun Friday), doing the "Monster Mash", while we continue to work on our good manners and kindness! Please send in BOTH sneakers and boots during these messy, muddy months (notice all those M's). And please remember mittens and hats and extra clothes. We want to embrace our outdoor space but we need the right clothes!



### Mrs. Barta's Pre-first

Welcome back! The pre-first children have jumped right back into the class routine. Last week, we were busy discussing resolutions and what they really meant. Each student has worked hard to create some of their own promises and goals for the new year. Here are some resolutions: *Get better at playing the piano. Learn to not fall on the trampoline. Get better at ballet. Get better at training George. Get better at reading and writing. Help other people. Learn how to tie shoes.* What a wide range of goals we have! In Math, we are learning all about money. This is a difficult concept that we will continue to work on throughout the year. We have been sorting coins and practicing exchanging smaller coins for larger valued coins. The "Pre-first Bank" is set up at the Math center to encourage more learning and hands-on opportunities to explore with different coins. Please ask your children to

help you "pay" the next time you buy something using coins. In Language Arts, we are doing a story comparison of the book, *The Mitten* by Jan Brett and Alvin Tresselt. We continue to work on our phonics skills and have learned 8 new glued sounds with words ending in -ng or -nk. We will practice writing, reading and spelling these words. Next week, we will be discussing Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as begin learning about polar bears and hibernation. Happy New Year!

### Mrs. Hooper & Mrs. Grieves' 3s



January in the 3 Day 3's is all about rectangles, winter, polar animals and the color blue with lots of special books being enjoyed at circle time! Our nursery rhyme for the month is appropriately, "Little Boy Blue." Ask your children about our new friend "Mat Man"!!! We are talking about Winter and how happy we are to have seen a "few flakes" fall! The children painted a blue snowflake placemat for snack time and finger painted blue rectangle snowflakes, which are hanging from our classroom! Everyone designed a pair of matching mittens and their own melted rectangle snowman....each one is unique with such personality! Next week we will make a puffy painted polar bear and learn a poem about this Arctic friend. We will also be working on some surprises for our

"Donuts at the Day School" guests!! Your children have become such good friends with one another....what a GREAT GROUP! It is wonderful to watch them interact and converse; remembering that "creative play" is one of the most important aspects of school for 3-4 year olds. Stay warm, read to your children and enjoy their delightful company and conversation!!