

January

Ms. Hurley's Kindergarten Newsletter

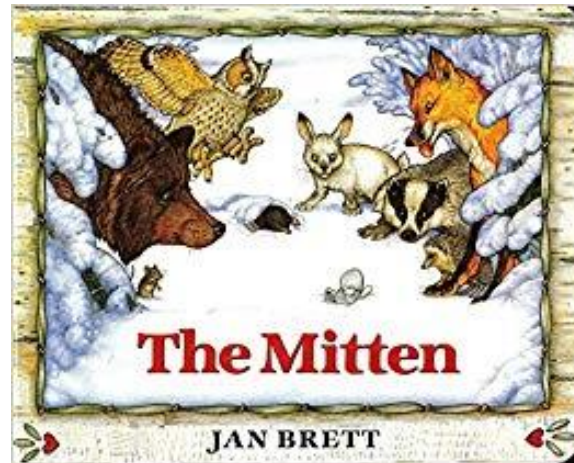
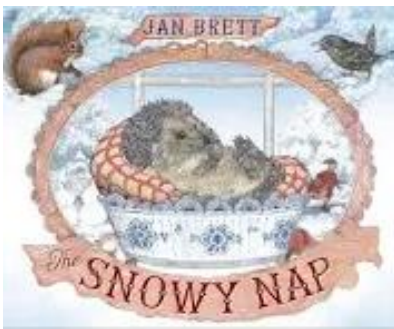
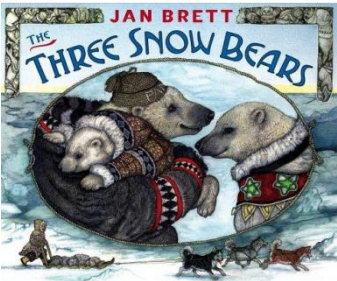


Important Dates

1/13 – Early
Release @
12:30
1/20 – NO
SCHOOL

Classroom News

It's finally starting to look and feel like winter! We read lots of Jan Brett stories this week including one of my favorites, The Mitten. The children made animals to use to retell the story. We compared and contrasted two other versions of this story that was based on a Ukrainian folktale. We discussed characters, setting, and the problem in the story. Our STEM challenge next week will be to make a clothesline that could hold the most mittens!



Literacy Tip: Keep reading nightly with your child! I started assessing this week and wow! I am thrilled to see what great readers the children are becoming. Extra practice makes a huge difference!

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Reminders

Our school rule states that all children riding the bus will wear snow pants home unless a parent has made arrangements with the teacher to leave a pair at school. Children getting picked up will have the choice to wear snow pants but will need all of their other gear on before being dismissed. Thank you for your help!

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all of your craft item and recyclable donations! They are being put to good use. Please keep sending things in as you find them. In addition to these items, we need clothes pins for a number of activities. If you have any old ones that aren't being used, they will be used in the next few weeks in our room!

Here's What We Learned

Literacy: Our new sight words were **away** and **jump**. We have learned half of our kindergarten sight words! We worked on sorting pictures by ending sounds, blending sounds to make words, and segmenting sounds in words. We learned how to use sound boxes to push up each sound when we hear it.

Handwriting: We have been working on writing words and sentences using the lowercase letters we've learned how to write correctly.

Math: We worked on sorting blocks and classmates by attribute. We had so much fun "fishing for friends"! Ask your child how this game works! We worked on number stories and talked about the addition, subtraction, and equal sign.

Writer's Workshop: We worked hard on leaving spaces between our words and saving capital letters for the beginning of our sentences and for names.

Science: This week we're learning about the four classic "seasons." Your child was given a series of drawings and looked for patterns to figure out the seasons' order. You can further encourage your child's curiosity about the weather by going on a "Season Walk." Go for a walk together and look for clues that help you to know what season it is! We also investigated how to bring light and warmth to a cold mountain town that doesn't see the sun throughout winter. (This lesson is actually based on the story of a real town in Norway:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/06/rjukan-sun-norway-town-mirrors>) Students experimented with different materials and discovered that sunlight can be redirected using reflective materials.

You can encourage your child's curiosity at home! For example, is the sidewalk hotter in the sun or in the shade? Why is it helpful to park a car in the shade during the hot summer? Encourage your child to notice the heating effects of the sun all around them!

Here are the student links to the lessons we worked on:
[Weather 1](#) | [Weather 2](#)

