



## UPCOMING EVENTS...

### Please Note...

☛ If we are closed due to inclement weather, Family Night, Febr. 6, will be cancelled.

☛ Parents, please remember to remove all items from your child's cubbie when picking up your child. This is our main way of relaying information (newsletters, notes from teachers, etc.) to you.

**February 14...** Nature Explore Families' Club

**February 16...** We will be closed.

### Coffee and Conversation

For anyone raising young children. Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 9:15-10:15AM in Courtyard Lounge (may last longer when we have a speaker). Call the office at 476-8304 for more information.

**Febr. 4...** How to find coupons and other money saving strategies in our area.

**Febr. 18...** Discipline Strategies; loving discipline for children.

**March 4...** Revitalizing

**March 18...** Childhood Obesity, speaker Carla Lester

**April 1...** Mother Identity

**April 15...** Centered Parenting

**May 6...** Refreshing

**May 20...** Party

### Reminders/Requests...

☛ ACH automatic withdrawal to pay tuition is available anytime during the year. Call the office at 476-8304 for details.

☛ There are still a few POGO cards available for \$20 in the office. They don't expire until 12/31/10 and include tons of savings for the whole family!

We will **NOT** follow Lincoln Public School's Calendar, but will follow **ALL EMERGENCY weather closings of LPS announced on the radio. If LPS is not in session we will follow the Catholic School weather closing announcements.**

## Bookshelf

*All You Need for a Snowman* by Alice Schertle & Barbara Lavallee

*Cat and Mouse in the Snow* by Tomek Bogacki

*First Snow in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams & Jean Stoic

*The Hat* by Jan Brett

*I Spy Little Christmas* by Jean Marzollo & Walter Wick

*Snowballs* by Lois Ehlert

*The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs

## Toddler children engage in winter experiences indoors and outdoors

text by Kathy Marshall, teacher; photos by Kathy Perry, teacher

During small group time, Toddler A children learned about winter. They created miniature snow people with white play dough. Using white tempera paint mixed with sand, they made snow scenes and snowflakes on blue construction paper. Children painted with their fingers, with brushes, or with both.

Sela H., 2½, and Maizie S., 2, fashion their snow people.



Children also bathed puppies and kittens (the stuffed

variety), fed them and snuggled them into beds and baskets. Using blocks and scarves, they made small houses for their pets.

During music and movement time, children scattered snowflakes (cut lace) on one another while learning the poem "Snowflakes." They also practiced sneezing into their elbows with the rhyme, "I'm Freezing," to help keep their friends healthier. New words and movement were explored with the song "Old Gray Cat." Children pretended to be cats and mice who were "sleeping," "creeping," "stalking," and "scampering."

## Family Night: a night of fun for everyone!

text by Heather Guess

Family Night is coming up in less than two weeks! Please join us for a night of great food, fun activities and exciting baskets to bid on. Some of the activities to look forward to will include: Valentine and mask making, face painting, and story telling.



(photo by Bob Meier Photography)

text and photos by Joy Ritchie, teacher

With coats, hats and mittens on, Toddler A children were ready to go outside. I



Top: Mrs. Marshall drops snow for the children. Right: Elizabeth P., 2½, and Teddie K., 2, learn how cold snow feels on their tongues. Below: Allison H., 2, brushes snow off of her gloves.



said, "Let's find snow." "No, it's melted, the sun did it," Mia replied. To our surprise, we found a patch of

snow hiding in the shadows of our school building waiting just for us. Mia, Elizabeth and Teddie enjoyed placing the snow on their tongue. Allison clapped her hands together to remove snow off her mittens and giggled when the snow lightly touched her face.



CJ C., 2½ and Bella M., 2½, experience bird seed in the classroom while Bella M., 2½, picks a robin out of the group of photos.



photos and text by Kris Sieckmeyer-Hajny, teacher

While our broad focus now is on animals in the winter, last week Toddler B focused specifically on birds, primarily Robins, Blue Jays, cardinals, chickadees, owls and doves.

The children enjoyed true to life photos that they could explore during work time and hold during story time, each child excited as they heard their bird referred to in the book (A Stranger in the Woods).

During small group we manipulated bird seed while we talked about what we saw in the mix and how the birds used their beaks to pick it up. We also talked about wings and feathers and the difference in the colors of the birds. We then made our very own birds by gluing feathers on bird outlines.

Levi P., age 2½, and Cyrus H., age 3, display their feathered birds.



## Valentine's Day plans

Your child is invited to bring valentines for friends on Valentine's Day (we're celebrating Feb. 12th & 13th)! Here are numbers to help you to determine amounts if you choose to send valentines.

- Preschool: 22 + 2T (teachers)
- Toddler A (everyone): 17 + 2T OR (your child's class only) 12 + 2T
- Toddler B (everyone): 18 + 2T OR (your child's class only) 12 + 2T

Generosity and caring about the feelings of others doesn't always come naturally. Many children learn these traits over time through play and holiday traditions, which is why Valentine's Day is so great. With all the greeting cards and classroom activities, it's easy to teach your child the value of sharing, giving and compassion.

Come prepared to have lots of fun!

## Martin Luther King Day, Inauguration quotes

text by Natalie Ragland, teacher

Some of the older preschool children had the opportunity to learn about Martin Luther King and the inaugural process last week.

Liem W.: Barack Obama is my president and he is black and no one said he was dumb (after listening to Martin Luther King videocast).

(Quotes about Barack Obama and Joe Biden given by Ava P., Eli K., Daniel B., Sophie C., and Caden Z.)

Who is our new vice president?

Ava P.: Joe Biden, because we need two presidents.

What does the vice president do?

Sophie C.: He takes care of himself.

Ava: He helps the president. He just sits there.

Caden: He helps people do decisions right.

Who would take over if President Obama was hurt or sick?

Ava: I would and I would give everyone candy!

Caden: McCain

Where is the inauguration speech?

Caden: At a football stadium. Did you know Barack Obama turned something (The White House) into a basketball court?

What does it mean to be the president of the United States?

Ava: People have to do whatever the president wants us to do.

Sophie: You (the president) have to take care of yourself.

Eli K.: You (the president) take care of all of the U.S.

How do you become a president of the United States?

Ava: You have to run for president and you have to take care of the Earth and others.

Caden: You have to be voted for.

Where does the president live?

Caden/Eli/Daniel: The White House!!!!

Who can run for president? Do you have to be a man or can you be a woman as well?

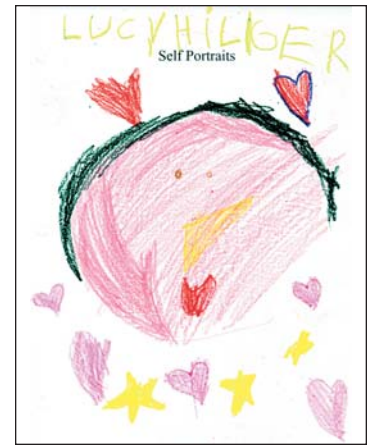
Ava/Daniel: A woman or a man!!!!

## Artwork showcases self-portrait views

captions by Heather Guess, teacher



Claire S., 5½, worked very hard on the hearts on her picture. She wanted them to look like real hearts.



Lucy H., 5½, drew her circle and then started coloring. I asked her what she was doing and she said she wanted a colored-in face.



Ella S., 4½, added teeth to her self-portrait. She also decided she needed colorful hair.



Enzo A., 3½, was able to write the "E" and "O" of his name. He was also proud that he was able to add eyes and a mouth.



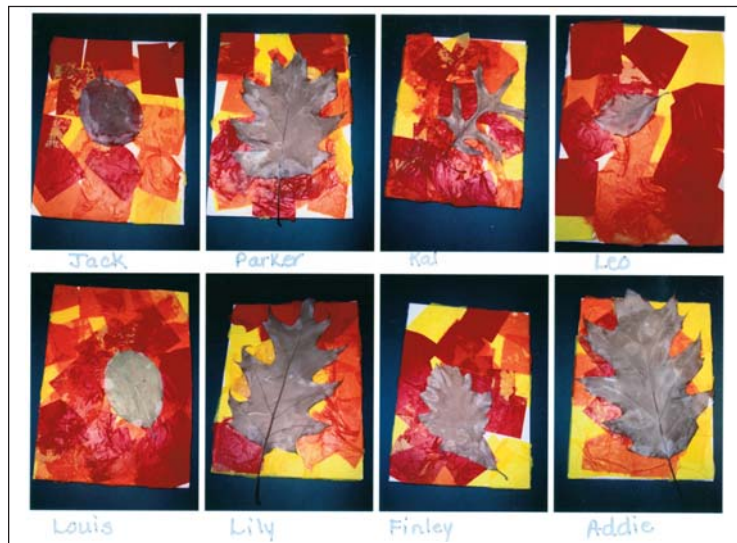
Erik B., 4, was very proud that he added hair and a smile to his face.



Andrew B., 4, added legs to his self-portrait. He also knew what body parts to add to his person.



Ivy F.H., 3½. After Ivy drew her picture she told me the purple and pink represented the undershirt she was wearing (with purple and pink hearts on it.)



## Leaves focus of colorful art experiences

text and photo by Donalyn Katt, teacher

Last fall, we made a collage out of red, orange and yellow tissue squares while practicing our gluing techniques. The children connected that these colors were some of the same colors we see in the fall when the leaves fall from the trees.

Several days later, I brought out the collages and told the children we were going on a leaf hunt to find the perfect leaf to glue onto our collage. The only requirement was that the

leaf should be flat so it would be easier to glue onto the collage.

We came back with many leaves and sorted them by colors, by varieties of trees, and by big and little leaves. Louis had many small leaves and when I asked him why, he told me, "Because small leaves will fit on my collage." And then Addie said, "I found a big leaf so it will hang over the sides. It will look like it is blowing in the wind."

## Daily school experiences at Dimensions spill over to home life

by Tara Hild

Let me tell you about some of the evening conversations and activities that have taken place at my house after a day of preschool at Dimensions.



One of Hunter's marshmallow and toothpick structures.

Two weeks ago, after the last issue of the newsletter was placed into cubbies, Hunter noticed that there was an article about creating structures out of marshmallows and toothpicks. He said, "Wow, that is so cool." So, the minute we got home, he asked me to get out supplies so that he, too, could build a

marshmallow structure.

After about 10 minutes of careful planning and building, he was very proud to show me that he had created a dog house. Since then, he has also created other structures on various occasions.

Hunter also has a box full of art supplies. This is his favorite thing to do at our house and I know that it carries over from his art and building experiences at school because that is where he has learned about dots, lines, shapes, 3-D structures, etc.

Sitting at the dinner table last Tuesday

night (the day of the inauguration), I said to Hunter, "Do you know what happened in the world today?" He said no, of course. I told him that we had a new president, and he said "Yeah, Barack Obama." We couldn't believe it. Hunter, 4 years old, was not only learning about shapes, letters, colors, and so much more at school... he was learning about real-life events. Hunter has learned so much at Dimensions this school year... it just amazes me! I would encourage everyone to bring their child's school experiences into the home. Keep those activities and conversations going after school and at the dinner table!



Ms. Logan plays UNO with Hunter T. and Brooke N. while Daniel B. constructs a LEGO spaceship.

## Mystery Boxes!

by Katie Logan, teacher

Extended sessions in the late afternoon offer "mystery box time," an opportunity for children to engage in individual exploration of books and various games, as well as a chance to meet and interact with friends from other sessions.

Nature Explore™ Classrooms are part of a national initiative that we are working with in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Dimensions First-Plymouth Early Education Programs is a non-profit 501(c)3.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line... [www.dimensionsfoundation.org](http://www.dimensionsfoundation.org)