

Teacher Tales

2 1/2 Year Olds Kris Morris and Karen White

Happy New Year! Oh, have we had fun in January! We started back with winter animals, and especially hibernating bears. We



read Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson. It was so cute to watch the kids pretend to hibernate.

Since we put the finishing touches on Genesis, and creation in December, we jumped a few chapters in Genesis to Noah. We explored what God means when He asks Noah (and us) to obey. We made a paper ark to help us remember that we need to be like Noah and his family, who always trusted and obeyed God. Our favorite part was making the rainbow. How creative God is to make the world such a beautiful and unconditional promise to never flood the earth again. (As a side note, Mrs. Morris was amazed by how well your kids sewed those boats together!)

We loved celebrating snow near the end of January (although secretly we wished we would actually see a flake or two). We ate ice cream, celebrated Timmy's birthday and even made snowmen with our names on them. (By the way your kids wrote their own name, with a little hand over hand guidance!)

At the end of January we started the new "promise" unit, Abraham. We looked at how God made some BIG promises to Abram. We pretended to be in Abram's family and we picked up our tent and literally journeyed from Haran to Canaan to Egypt, to Bethel back to Canaan (or from our room, to the yellow room and down the hall

and back to our room). Our arms were tired from traveling but we learned that God promised Abram to make him the father of a great nation, with more kids, and grandkids, and great grandkids and great-great-grandkids (you get the point right?) than there is sand on the earth or stars in the heavens!

Please remember to check your child's school bag regularly and make sure they have extra diapers/pull-ups and wipes, and that their change of clothes "just in case" are cold weather appropriate. Again, we plan to play on the playground unless it's raining, below freezing, or wet. We are blessed to work with your precious little ones!

Your kids did so well with getting back into the groove after having been out for 2 weeks! The biggest news: We have started going to the BIG playground! It is full of gravel though so consider which shoes your child wears. Crocs, sandals and gravel don't play well together.



3 Year Olds Katie Denisar, Julie Zimmerman, & Karen White

Happy New Year! It was so nice to have a long break and kick this year off right with reading about snowmen and lots of snow art! We exercised our fine motor skills by cutting out snowflakes and beading them onto pipe cleaners to make snowflakes. We celebrated the letter 'P' with

books and crafts about penguins practiced making patterns, doing puzzles, reading Pete the Cat and the Four Groovy Buttons, by Eric Litwin making a Pete puppet, painting a porcupine and making and eating pizza! Pastor Jacob was also able to come to class and tell us about what a pastor does and about why we pray.

The remainder of the month, we practiced the letters B and R. We read books about bears such as Bear Snores On by Karma Wilson, Time to Sleep by Denise Fleming, and Over and Under by Marthe Jocelyn learning about hibernation.

We also learned about other Arctic animals like Beluga whales, puffin, moose and Polar bears. We experimented with ice and 'blubber' and learned how the animals stay warm.

In February, we will be talking about love, sharing and kindness. As we read the book, Stone Soup by Marcia

Brown, we will demonstrate the concept of sharing, as each person shares an ingredient from home to make a big pot of

"Stone Soup" in our classroom. It will also be fun to celebrate Valentine's Day and prepare to participate in the USA Day parade. We look forward to another amazing month!



4 Year Olds Glenda Zarco, and Sarah Medina

Happy New Year! We hope you and your family had a wonderful winter break. January might have been a short month for us in relation to school days but we accomplished a lot. We started our daily name practice. Each child will trace both their first and last name to let us know they are present at school.



Do you want to build a snowman? We learned all about ice, snow and arctic animals with our winter unit. We discussed the need to wear certain clothes during wintertime in relation to the weather. We practiced sequencing a story with cards from the book The Mitten by Jan Brett. Both the Lifecycle of the Snowflake and What Arctic Animals Eat were exciting areas of focus for us.



Lastly, your student enjoyed making predictions in relation to an experiment we conducted using both salt and sugar to melt large ice cubes. Ask your child what melted the ice the fastest. Practicing scissor skills, coloring our emergent readers, doing polar shape puzzles, and feeding a penguin the letters we learned (drawn on fish) were



all in our center rotations this month.

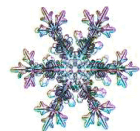
We are anticipating February and all of the fun things it will bring. We will focus on God's love, friendship, Groundhog Day and patriotism with our USA Day parade.

4 Year Olds Brenda Allen and Meagan Luallin

The Owl Class was back in full force in January! We learned about winter, and since we didn't get any snow for Christmas - we made our own! The kids thoroughly enjoyed mixing this up, and had a blast playing with their own tray, piled high. Our verse upon returning this brand new year was about fresh starts, forgiveness and the grace of the Lord. **"Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow.."** Isaiah 1:18.



Snowflakes were next. We learned about how they are formed, and about their 6 sides (hexagons). We also learned how every single snow flake is unique, and unlike any other - just like all of our owl friends. We exercised our scissor muscles and created some of our own very unique snowflakes. We had a lot of fun making crystal snowflakes with borax. Watching the water boil, mixing the solution and starting the process of growing crystals with pipe cleaners was interesting; and our owl friends learned they had to wait patiently to see these crystals form.



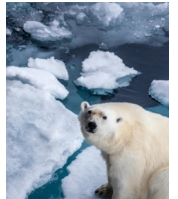
Taste and see! A huge highlight during the month of January was

"Ice Cream Day." The Owl Class made our very own ice cream! Chocolate, cookies and cream, and vanilla were our flavor choices.



Shaking the bag of ice was cold, but worth it! It was so much fun and we look forward to finding a way to do it again.

Keeping with our cold, wintery theme, next we learned about the very cold north and south poles. The Arctic Circle and Antarctica were fascinating to study, especially the animals! Penguins, polar bears, snow owls, arctic foxes and seals don't mind the cold at all! How they live in a very cold



environment was tested with a "blubber"



experiment. Our owl friends are so eager to learn, and love to participate. We had so much fun with all of our science and art projects, winter songs and freeze tag in the gym.

We are really working hard on writing our names, and we are proud of how much they have improved.

This month we expanded our alphabet knowledge by learning the letters N and Y. The children are all improving their listening skills, and their ability to follow directions when writing our new letters! I am very proud of them all.



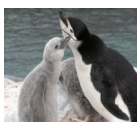
We really look forward to February when we will celebrate God's love, Valentine's Day and USA Day (for which we are anxious to participate in a whole school parade).



Music with Marcia Lee

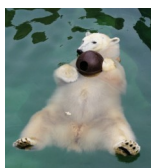
This month the children sang and moved to music that will improve their large motor skills. ***The Snowkey Pokey*** (to the tune of ***The Hokey Pokey***) was a big hit. The children also enjoyed singing and acting out ***Six Little Snowmen***. These songs reinforce the learning of the left side and the right side.

The children all enjoyed singing about our animal



friends, the penguins and the polar bears, who live in the snow and ice all the time. They

acted like these animals while singing ***Peter, Peter Penguin*** and ***Furry Polar Bear***.



During the month of February we will sing

patriotic songs, as well as songs about Presidents Washington and Lincoln, whose birthdays we will recognize.

We are anxious to sing some songs about **"LOVE"** in anticipation of St. Valentine's Day, as well as patriotic songs to help us prepare for **USA DAYS**, when we'll enjoy a parade.



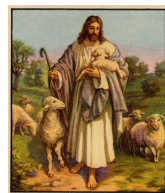
Chapel with Marcia Lee



During Chapel in January, we realized we ***do not know*** what the future holds, but we ***do know*** that God holds our future, loves us now, and always will.

For the first Chapel lesson of 2023, we learned how God made us unique. We read the book entitled ***The Tiny Snowflake*** by Arthur Ginolfi. And just like a tiny snowflake, we learned that **"God made us in an amazing and wonderful way."** This Bible verse is found in Psalm 139:14.

We learned a story Jesus told when He was on Earth. It told of a shepherd who had 100 sheep. He dearly loved and cared for each of them. When even one got lost, he searched until he found that one lost sheep. When the sheep was found, the shepherd was so very happy. In the same way, we learned when we disobey God, He is so saddened by our disobedience, we become like "lost sheep" to Him who is our "Great Shepherd." Then, when we make good choices and apologize to God in prayer, we become like the found sheep, and God is so very happy. Our Bible verse was **"In Him,**



I am complete. Colossians 2:10."

As we approached the end of January, we wanted to reflect on the three parts of God; God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. Seeing the three parts of a snowman inspired us to



remember **God as the Holy Trinity**. God is with us all the time, surrounding us with His love! The bottom section of the snowman is like God the

Father, our rock and foundation. The middle part is like His Son, Jesus, loving us with outstretched arms. And the head is like the Holy Spirit, guiding and directing our hearts and minds toward Him. May you and your family be reminded of the Trinity Snowman and its meaning as you create your own



snowman this winter!

We look forward to

February when we will share lessons on **love** in preparation for our Valentine's Day party.

We will also celebrate the country of which we are so proud! We are anticipating marching, dressed in **red**, **white**, and **blue**, in the great **USA DAY parades!!** We hope you can join us in the gym for that event. Bring your camera!

