



Cinnamon Street Talk



A Publication of Cinnamon Street Early Education & Childcare Center
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From the Director

Well, we're halfway through the winter season and are finally experiencing cold and snow. Much credit goes to the preschool children for the strides they've made in 'suiing up' for the great outdoors. They do, however, need some assistance in their overflowing cubby area. Please LABEL all your child's belongings, even their socks. That way when teachers and family members are working to organize coats, boots, snow pants, blankets...that task is better accomplished. I'm sure I write for all involved, that every little bit helps!

Jenn Stickney, our Office Administrator has been away on vacation. I have worked hard to meet your office needs while keeping up with my own duties. Please approach me for any further needs or questions.

There are changes in the making for the center. The Teddy room toddler program is closing. Of the five enrolled children, three are transitioning to the preschools, two to the Little Bear Room. Liz Bates, Lead Teacher, will be moving over to join Amy in the Polar Bear preschool. Her positive energy and warm interpersonal skills with children and families alike will be appreciated by all.

Our valuable sub, willing floater, Jenn Moses will be filling a full time assistant position in the Little Bear's. This will make three full time teachers in that busy room! She has enjoyed her time with the Pandas, building friendships with the children while facilitating their play. Wanda George will be taking over the position of After Kinder teacher. She is looking forward to expanding on their Richards kindergarten program, and offering other learning opportunities in a fun environment.

What's to happen to the Teddy classroom itself? The Big Bear After School program will be relocated into that space. They are very excited at the prospect of having a room of their own.

Another benefit will be the opportunity to transform the current 'Big Bear room' into a working multi-purpose room for all to enjoy. An indoor room for large motor activities is on every early childhood educator's wish list!

Whenever a change to the program or design of the center facility is proposed, it is always after much thought and discussion at Program, Finance or Executive Board meetings. *These meetings are open to all* and are posted ahead of time in the monthly calendar that usually accompanies the StreetTalk, also the minutes from each Board meeting are on the Executive Board Bulletin Board outside the office door. each Board meeting are on the Executive Board Bulletin Board outside the office door.

Spread the word!
We have openings for School Vacations
on a space-available basis

See What's Happening at our Website:
CinnamonStreet.org

Visit CinnamonStreet.org for more information about Cinnamon Street programs, staff, volunteer opportunities and links to local, state and national child-related websites.

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Finance

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Little Bears (6 weeks-3 years) Suzie Truell, Heidi Pill

It has been very busy in the Little bear room; everyone is growing so fast! <Child's Name> is transitioning to the Polar Bears and is doing great! <Child's Name> is wishing she was going to preschool too and tries to go with her. <Child's Name> has taken on the role of 'big kid' and offers guidance to his younger friends on what he thinks they should be doing. <Child's Name> is the group gatherer to story time, he likes it so much that he makes sure that everyone else is also in attendance. <Child's Name> loves to say everyone's name during the group circle song 'Who's here today'. <Child's Name> is standing on her own, it won't be long before she's walking! <Child's Name> is cruising all over the room and is climbing up the play structure. We are very happy to report that <Child's Name> is taking her bottle from us. <Child's Name> is working her neck muscles and will soon be holding her head up on her own. <Child's Name> is adjusting great and is enjoying his new friends.

We've been working on knowing our colors. Red was the chosen color of the week; and was a great success! We appreciate all of the family's support shown by dressing your child in whatever red you could find! This color theme will continue, a color for each week; orange, yellow, green and blue respectively. The children will also be learning the American Sign for each color. As a matter of fact, more signs will be incorporated into the daily routine.

Suzie and Heidi attended a full day Infant/Toddler seminar sponsored by the NH Child Development Bureau. They have many exciting new ideas that they can't wait to share!

An upcoming change will bring Jenn Moses to the Little Bear room as a Childcare Assistant. Along with Jenn come two additional children to join their friends full time.

Thanks to those responsible for the pizza, cheese doodles and cupcakes

Wish list: 100% juice, Mini whisks, Scrubbers, Small kitchen sink plungers

We are also looking for donations of markers , stickers, bird seeds, and pipe cleaners. Thank you!

Teddy Bears (6 weeks-3 years) Liz Bates

January has been a month full of changes; this is our last month together. Three of our friends are turning three and so are transitioning to the preschools. Two others will become Little Bears with Suzie and Heidi, and 'Lizzy' will be a teacher in the Polar Bears. We are excited about these changes and have already started the transition process.

For the next few weeks we will be expanding our interest in construction. We will read related books and explore a vast variety of building materials. If an interested family member would like to visit our class and do a demonstration or offer building materials, your contribution would be much welcomed.

Retreat to Advance After School Programming

Retreat to Advance After School Programming at Cinnamon Street

Have you heard the news? Cinnamon Street has been the recipient of grant money to work on a strategic plan for the expansion of our 'Out of School Time Hours' programming. In other words, we are planning to expand and improve our after school program. Do you have ideas, suggestions? Are you interested in how this will affect your family? Then please join the Cinnamon Street Executive Board and teachers on Saturday, February 17th from 9:00 to 1:00 in the Sugar River Community Room.

Koala Bears (3-5 years)

We are growing again, and changing. Our class has a new blue color thanks to Mike Pollari, one of our Koala parents. The Pollaris are especially kind giving so much of their time and respect, thank you. For all of you secret helpers, thank you very much, no kind deed or gesture goes unnoticed or unappreciated.

We are physically growing as well. We have noticed that our children are getting bigger and helping their younger friends get used to the routine of the class. There is a new family of twin boys! One has joined the Koalas and the other is in the Polars. Welcome! We've also added two new members from the Teddy room. They are transitioning into our preschool and we welcome them too.

Through the changes and additions we've kept up with our classroom routines and structure. We've added a newly designed weather chart to our morning group time and have learned a new poem about a bunny and a snowman. The children love to sing songs at group time too! While learning the nursery rhyme, Jack be nimble, the children all took turns jumping over a candlestick substituted by a flashlight [innovation by a child].

Since we finally have snow it has been a topic of interest. Our class explored snow by sitting in it, eating it, throwing it, and gathering it to bring into the classroom to watch what would happen to it. The children have been having a blast sliding down the snow bank on whatever they can find; a container lid, cardboard box, even just their bottoms!

Inside we've been noticing a lot of interest in trains, so will be starting a curriculum unit featuring trains. If you have any materials that you'd be willing to share that would be much appreciated; photos, pictures, books, clothes, music etc.

Wish list: extra warm hats

Preschool sized extra clothing

Big Bears (1st grade–12 years) Heather Blake

The Big Bears are counting down to Heather's due date. Have you checked out the countdown questions posted on the front windows? Some of the children's answers are quite interesting! The classroom baked some tasty apple cinnamon bread, there will be more baking projects! On a no-school day we visited the Montshire Museum and saw a cool presentation on the Solar System. I heard that there is a Mammoth exhibit coming in February; perhaps something to plan for during February vacation? The children have been playing outdoors a lot. Between zooming around on the scooters, sliding on the snow bank and one on one basketball with Patti they should be tired! They have also been creating some awesome art projects and intricate block structures.

There are changes coming in February. The Big Bear program will be moving into the Teddy room. We are getting ready to plan the set up shortly and move during the vacation week. It will take all of their teamwork and muscle power! The other big event is Heather leaving to have her baby. I can't wait and I'm sure the kids are excited too. I am hoping to receive letters and photos from them showing what they've been doing, and I will do the same. Cinnamon Street is still advertising for my substitute.

Some class accomplishments: as a group they are doing well with their goals. I hear that good report cards have been handed out.

Wish List: Educational computer games

Cool art supplies

Staples for an ordinary stapler

Scotch tape

Panda Bears (Kindergarten) Jenn Moses

The Panda bears have been a busy group. They are constantly building, creating, and writing. Their crowning community building project was a Panda fort fashioned from a large box. With Jenn's help they cut out windows and a door, and painted it; inside and out! Fluffy stuff was added to the roof to simulate snow, and VOILA! It became the favored place to take a nap! The children have enjoyed plenty of outdoor time and shook down the house with dance music on afternoons too cold to go outside. A sad farewell was said to one of our friends by Cinnamon Street staff and children, but the Pandas can keep their friendship going at Richards Kindergarten.

Beginning during the week of February vacation, Wanda will be the Panda's teacher. For some of the children this will be a reunion. She is very excited to expand on the literacy skills they've been building in kindergarten and offering other developmentally appropriate learning experiences. Jenn will be moving to take a Childcare Assistant position in the Little Bears, so each of the Kinder Bears can plan to see her every day!

Wish list: staplers/staples

Scotch tape

Large pillows for cozy area

Polar Bears (3 years to 5 years) Amy MacIntyre, Wanda George

At last, snow! What fun we have had playing outside! The cold has made it icy, so we have our own little skating spot on the playground; when it's time to go in our cheeks are rosy red! This past month the children have memorized several nursery rhymes; Jack be nimble, Humpty Dumpty, Little Miss Muffet, and Mary had a little lamb. In connection with these rhymes we tried jumping over a wooden candlestick, we took a short running start and jumped as high and far as we could! When we cracked eggs like poor Humpty it was hard to put them back together again- even with a lot of glue. We also tried our hand at making edible spiders and marshmallow sheep. Recipe for edible spiders:cherry tomatoes for the body, chinese noodles for the legs, raisins for the eyes, and peanut butter to make it all stick together. Some of us enjoyed the peanut butter on tomatoes, it was interesting to try different combinations. Marshmallow sheep were fun to make too [and eat!] The children love learning the rhymes and making up their own too, they are posted on the classroom door for all to enjoy.

This month we would like to welcome a returning friend back to Cinnamon Street, and a new friend to our class. We also have a new member transitioning in from the Little Bears, and another from the Teddies.

Beginning February vacation, Wanda will be teaching the After Kinder program [Panda Bears], and Liz Bates will be joining the Polars. Some of you know her as your child's Teddy teacher. Please welcome Liz and her positive energy to the Polars!

Rug for block area