

Creative Learning Center

January 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please visit our website at www.clcalamo.com.

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 9

Classes Resume - Note: January billing statements will arrive via email Jan. 9

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL

Thursday, January 19

Pajama Day

Thursday and Friday, February 2 and 3

Parent Conferences - NO SCHOOL

Monday and Tuesday, February 13 and 14

Valentine Celebrations - More info to come

January Theme

Theme: Land of the Lost - Dinosaurs, prehistoric life, fossils, volcanoes

Math focus: Classifying

Letters of the Week

Jan 9-13 S s

Jan 17-20 E e

Jan 23-27 R r

Jan 30 - Feb 1 R r

Food Drive for Food Bank of Contra Costa County

CLC will participate in a Food Drive during the week of February 13-17, 2017. We invite you to donate one can of food along with your child's Valentines for our Valentine Celebrations February 13 and 14. We will continue collecting canned food, dry beans, rice, pasta, cereal and other non-glass food items throughout the week. Thank you for taking the time to care for those less fortunate and for helping to instill the gift of caring for others in your child's life.

The Latest on Screen Time

Recognizing the ubiquitous role of media in children's lives, the American Academy of Pediatrics has released new policy recommendations and resources to help families maintain a healthy media diet. The AAP recommends that parents and caregivers develop a family media plan that takes into account the health, education and entertainment needs of each child as well as the whole family. Key recommendations:

- For children younger than 18 months, avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting. Parents of children 18 to 24 months of age who want to introduce digital media should choose high-quality programming, and watch it with their children to help them understand what they're seeing.
- For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health.

The Latest on Screen Time is from Exchange Every Day (December 8, 2016), a free daily newsletter from www.ChildCareExchange.com. Click on the link to sign up!

Junior Kindergarten

For our families with children turning 4 by September 1, 2017, we invite you to visit our JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN program to see if it is a good fit for your child next school year (2017-2018). A good time to visit is 9:15 am. Please call the office at (925) 837-4044 to set up a time to observe.

What's Happening?

Our December theme, "Who is Coming to Our House", gave the children a wonderful opportunity to learn about family celebrations and traditions. Thank you to all the families that came in to share with their child's together time groups about their family culture and customs. It was a fun time for all of the children to hear about and participate in these special holiday activities.

Together Time Highlights

Motor, Science and Music

- We practiced and performed backward somersaults; learned ball drills including bouncing, catching, throwing and catching; and, enjoyed doing the freeze dance and other silly dances in MOTOR with Teacher Courtney!

- In SCIENCE with Teacher Lynne we observed chemical reaction with the hopping corn experiment, made snow out of conditioner and baking soda, discussed why it snows and experienced the cold weather while playing to our heart's content!
- We sang and enjoyed MUSIC with Teacher Jan in December: Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bell Rock, Rudolph, Do You Know Blitzen?, I Have a Little Dreidle, Silent Night, Deck the Halls, We Wish You a Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, The Chanukah Menorah, Frosty the Snowman, and Hot Chocolate (from The Polar Express)!

Mary's Orange Tigers

- Authored class book of Fairytales
- Sang "Gingerbread Man" and cut out
- Finger painted with glitter paint

Chieko's Red Rock Stars

- Read "Snowmen at Night" and made our own snowmen
- Created an ocean and filled it with ocean creatures
- Built shapes on the Geo Board and followed directions to color in our gingerbread men

Susan's Yellow Bees

- Read Marcus Pfister's "The Rainbow Fish" and talked about what it means to be a good friend
- Talked about Goldilocks and the choices she made at the Bears' house
- Mixed red and yellow paint together and made orange paintings

Linda's AM Blue Birds

- Created forests using tree cookie cutters and green paint
- Made special gifts for our families with baker's clay
- Worked on our scissor skills snipping paper to make an orange "O" and cutting large letter "O's" to create owls

Marie's Green Geckos

- Played a game of fishing for letters of the alphabet
- Worked on fine motor and cutting skills cutting green pieces of paper
- Sang "Over in the Meadow", practicing our counting skills

Lindi's AM Purple Pandas

- Mixed special snow paint
- Created an "Octopus's Garden"

- Learned about Hanukkah traditions with Matan's Mommy

Lindi's PM Red Apples

- Manipulated felt to tell the story of "The Gingerbread Man"
- Measured and mixed ingredients to form green and gold glittery gak
- Shared holiday traditions with our special family guests

Lynne's PM Blue Birds

- Explored patterns (pre-math) by making gingerbread pattern hats, gingerbread houses and people
- Played "What's Missing?" from our Letter of the Week box
- Performed finger play "Way Up High in the Apple Tree"

Marisha's PM Purple Pandas

- Read "The Gingerbread Man" and made gingerbread cupcakes
- Practiced patterning skills with cube blocks
- Discussed opposites and assembled "Equal and Opposites" puzzle

Marisha's PM Golden Stars

- Made gumball machines and counted gumballs (pom-poms)
- Stamped painted patterns with cookie cutters
- Made paper plate owls and read "Owl's Night"

Staff Spotlight

This month our staff spotlight is shining bright on Teacher Linda. Linda lives in Danville and enjoys a busy schedule with her family. She received her B.S. in Child Development from U. C. Davis and joined CLC in 1998. Linda is our early arrival teacher and teaches our morning "Blue Birds".

"I truly love working with young children, so choosing a career in Early childhood Education seemed to be an obvious and natural choice for me. To be able to watch their development through the year and know that I have been able to contribute to that is a very rewarding feeling. I can't imagine not having children in my life, they keep me young at heart and teach me so much!"

Baby News

Congratulations to Andrew P. and his family!
Baby sister Caroline was born on December 19.
CLC joins Andrew and his family in welcoming baby Caroline!

It's My Birthday!

January Birthdays - Let's Celebrate!
Dane, Emily, Gabby, Genevieve,
Max L, Mia, Rex, & Sophie G.

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