



WCA Preschool Times



January 8, 2024

It is so wonderful to be back in the classroom! The last week we were together feels so long ago, but also not as I think about the activities we did and conversations we had. The class had been working on various ornaments to bring home before break. They all did a great job and had asked many times when they get to take them home. I believe they were excited to share with you! We had been adding cotton balls to Santa's beard each day as well. I hope you enjoyed doing this much anticipated daily activity at home with your child. As we enter into the new year we will be shifting our focus to animals. This is one of my favorite units! Children are instinctively drawn to nature and animals. We will kick this unit off with studying hibernation and what it means when animals do not migrate or adapt to the changing cold weather conditions that Michigan has. We will read *The Mitten* and then retell the story by making our own mitten book. In science, we will simulate the feel of insulation that animals need to have in the winter months by using ice water, zip lock bags and shortening. Take advantage of the web addresses on the back! There are some great resources to further engage your preschooler exploring animals and their interesting lives. Many zoo's also have live web cams and various videos of animals. We will also be focusing on the correct names of various shapes with shape bean bag games, word wall words and puzzles. According to the weatherman, the weather will be a mix of snow and rain this week. Hopefully we will get to enjoy some snow this week. I just love sledding with the class! We will go outside each day the weather permits to enjoy the fresh air! *Dress your child in full winter gear each day and please check their backpack for wet gloves and snow pants.*

Areas of Focus

Animals; Hibernation



Literacy and Language



- Books: *Good Night Bear!*, *What The Moon Sees*, *Six Snowy Sheep*, *The Mitten*, *One Snowy Night*, *Beavers*, *The Hat*
- My Mitten Book (*The Mitten* by Jan Brett)
- Read and Write Around the Room

Focus Words

burrow * underground * den * hibernate

Math, Science, Sensory

- *Counting Bear Balance Scale
- *Animal Insulation Experiment
- * Light Table Animal X-rays
- * Match and Toss a Shape



Important News

➔ If we have a school closing due to weather I will send out a Remind message early morning. You can also find the information on the Will Carleton Academy Facebook page or by listening to WCSR 92.1 or at <https://www.wilx.com/weather/closings/>

Poem

A-Hunting We Will Go
(Rhyming Words)



A-hunting we will go,
A-hunting we will go,
We'll catch a fox
And put him in a box
And then let him go.



Online Resources About Animals

Ranger Rick (National Wildlife Foundation)

<https://www.rangerrick.org>

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Smithsonian National Zoo (webcams)

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams>

Interactive animal games for Pre-schoolers

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/preschool/animals.htm>



Smithsonian

