

the

2010-2011

SEED newsletter

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Celebration of the Winter Solstice

The annual Celebration of the Winter Solstice will be held this Friday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. at McKemy Middle School in Tempe. All children will be performing and an information sheet will follow with more specific instructions for arrival time, supervision, costumes, etc. Extended families and friends are welcome! The program will be professionally video recorded and copies will be for sale after the break. See the flyer on our website for more information: <http://www.awakeningseedsschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Solstice-2010.pdf>

Kristen's Work Space

Please remember to conduct all transactions with Kristen from the front side of the desk, rather than behind her desk. She often has accounts and files open that must remain confidential. We ask you to please respect her space and the privacy of others by not standing in the space near her computer, or

letting your children come behind her desk. If your child wants to give Kristen a hug, she'll happily come around to the other side of the desk to do this. The only exception is if your child is ill and you come to pick him/her up from the cot in the office. Thanks for respecting this request.

Tax Credit Reminder

We REALLY need everyone who can contribute, to participate in the Tax Credit program this year. The Seed depends on it to keep our elementary program, which is highly valuable to the school's well being. Please tell anyone you know about this who pays Arizona taxes. If you have any questions, please call Bill at (602) 448-5110.

Sojourner Center Gift Drive

This is the last week to bring in gifts for the Sojourner Center. The gifts will be delivered to the Sojourner Center on December 15th.

Music News

It has been a fun couple of months celebrating Halloween and Thanksgiving in music! As the Solstice and holidays approach, we remember that there are many different songs we can sing. The toddlers continued to learn about music through movement and instrument play. While our preschoolers added more songs to their repertoire, the early elementary classes learned about rhythm patterns and played holiday songs on the Boomwhackers, tubular instrument made of plastic. Aimee's class has been doing an excellent job playing their recorders. Enjoy the season!

Winter Wonderland

The after school program will be doing a winter wonderland activity on Wednesday, December 15th. We need cone shaped ice cream cones, white frosting, sprinkles, and candies donated for the project if you'd like to contribute. There is a sign-up sheet in the front office.

Toddler 1s

Sarah/Meryl/Danielle

We had a great week filled with music and dancing. Jay brought in a big drum and each of the children made some loud drum beats. We practiced our dance a bit and are looking forward to the performance on Friday. This week we will continue to work on our dance and finish our special art activity. On Wednesday, we will have a pajama day and all children in class are invited to wear their pajamas to school. Please check the coat hooks for any unlabeled jackets that may have been left at school.

Toddler 2s

Jamie/Lyndsy

Last week we danced our shoes off practicing for the Winter Solstice performance. The toddlers are twirling, shaking, jumping and buzzing in their sleep! We can't wait to show you our amazing moves and adorable costumes! In the classroom we were busy diving into a mixture of shaving cream and glue. The first day we were covered from head to toe. The second day we decided we better wear paint shirts. The outcome of this adventure was one cool snowman!

Congratulations to Conrad and Amelia on their triumph in becoming potty trained. YOU DID IT!

Preschool 2.5s/3s

Carly/Melanie

You can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man! This week we are excited to be baking our very own Gingerbread Man. But what the class doesn't know is that he is going to disappear and we are going to have to catch him! We are going to have to use our five senses in order to figure out where he is. Also, the vegetables we planted in our garden are starting to sprout and we are enjoying looking each day and noticing the changes and growth. Once our vegetables have grown we will be making a delicious salad!

Preschool 3s

Kevin/Katie

Last week was a busy one; Katie made fins for fabulous fish and the 3s are learning dance parts fabulously. Please be sure you brought green shirts so we have them ready for dress rehearsals. All students are encouraged to attend the rehearsals at 10:00 on both Thursday and Friday. Parent gifts are almost complete, now it's on to buddy reader gifts. Our class has been organized into four color teams, and encouraging team mentality, and making transitions smoother. Please refer to lists in the front of the room to see who is on your preschoolers' teams.

Preschool 4s

Deb/Billie

This has been a busy few weeks for the preschoolers. In addition to daily practice for the Celebration of the Winter Solstice dance,

the children made dinosaur hats, reviewed the sounds of T and I and utilized their fine motor skills as they made name necklaces for their buddy reader's holiday gift. Many thanks to Nico's mom, Janeth, for talking about how she and her family celebrate the holidays. She showed us a nativity set from El Salvador and taught us how to make rice pudding, a holiday tradition from her homeland. In the week ahead, we'll find out how Tavi's family celebrates the Winter Solstice!

PreK

Emily/Tatiana

Dinosaur Mountain and fossils towered over us at the Arizona Museum of Natural History last week, giving us a sense of these extinct creatures' true size. The week also offered opportunities to learn about Escher and Hanukkah, both lessons presented by students' families. We also fit in time for silent sorting in math, new words for our wall, Solstice practice, and the creation of gifts for our buddy readers because "they are so helpful to our reading." This week we'll dedicate time to parent gifts, Solstice costumes, and other holiday celebrations.

K-1

Kerri/Michelle

We're down to the last few school days of 2010 and they'll be busy ones. Our class has a secret cooking project planned this week, along with daily practice to fine tune our dance moves. We want to thank Candice for her help with our class dance. The Winter Solstice performance should prove to be a memorable, magical event. All K-1 kids need to wear long sleeve BLACK shirts and dark bottoms on Friday evening. On Thursday afternoon, my good friend and former Seed teacher, Gloria Keenan, will come in for a special presentation of Kwanzaa. Have a happy and healthy winter break with your family and friends.

1st/2nd Grades

Becky/Dina

A lot of energy is certainly present in our classroom nowadays as the children look forward to performing in the Winter Solstice program, giving gifts that they have been making and enjoying their holiday vacation time at home. We are learning about how

Mark Your Calendar

Celebration of the Winter Solstice

Friday, December 17th
7:00 p.m.

McKemy Middle School
Tempe

Winter Break

Monday, December 20th
to Friday, December 31st
no school

Quote of the Week:

From Dr. Charles Fay of Love and Logic:
During this holiday season, my hope is that you'll...

- spend more time playing with your kids than you spend shopping for them;
- remember that the gift they really yearn for is you;
- hug them and smile into their eyes as often as possible; and
- show them through your never-ending love what a precious gift they are.

people around the world celebrate this holiday season. Nina's mother, Claudia, taught us about the St. Nicholas holiday and the children thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. The children love our dance practice each day, even though it requires all of the children to focus carefully on their moves. It is truly a dance filled with happiness.

3rd/4th Grades

Aimee/Kaylee

We began our liquid measurement study by diving into salt and rice bins with measuring cups and spoons of all sizes. Then came the difficult task of memorizing all of the amounts. Do you remember how many quarts are in a gallon? Or pints are in a quart? If not, maybe Mr. Gallon Man can help you, too! The third and fourth graders each made a "Gallon Man" with proportionally appropriate parts to represent the number of cups, pints, and quarts in a gallon. Now, all they have to do to remember is picture this funky guy in their minds.