

Sunbeams
January 2012



Dear Parents,

The Sunbeams have had a lot of fun during this past year! We started September off with School Pride, and finished with 2012 Welcomes You! We are very proud of how far the Sunbeams have come, and can't wait to get into the second half of the school year. Before January's themes are introduced, here is a recap of what we learned in December.

The first two themes of December were *Global Sharing* and *Universal Bazaar*. We studied the geography of the U.S.A. and the whole world, learned our directions, focused our attentions on the awesome country of New Zealand and took a trip around the globe as we visited 5 other countries. We created passports and visited Thailand, The Philippines, Switzerland, Peru and Trinidad! We tried various foods and drinks, created beautiful crafts that represented each country's heritage and enjoyed the music and dance of each country! We also took time to explore the various holidays celebrated around the world! In the hallway of Gross Motor is where the creations of each country are currently displayed!

Our third theme, *Traveling Through Time*, was really fun to watch as our Sunbeams were transformed into reporters! We began by reviewing and remembering highlights of our 2011 school year, and ended by interviewing our friends and teachers! The Sunbeams drew their own impressive clocks, and held mini reports as a final presentation for this theme. During this week we also held our FUN Holiday Party! We were so happy to see so many family members and friends come out for this special gathering; and it was great to sing songs, hear stories, give gifts and taste yummy holiday treats!

The last theme of December was *2012 Welcomes You!* During this week we discussed our wishes for 2012 and talked about our favorite memories from 2011. We created Good Luck Goldfish, fireworks crafts, Penny Wishing Dolls, noisemakers and celebratory masks! It was a great way to spend the last few days of 2011.

To start off January, we will begin with the theme of *Winter Wonders!* The books, One Winter's Day and When Will It Snow? will start us off. The Sunbeams will use their gross motor skills to flurry like a snowstorm, fall like a snowflake and walk like penguins. We will also enjoy listening to the song, "Walking in a Winter Wonderland!" We will investigate different types of water by observing a video of an ice crystal forming, feeling cool and lukewarm water and observing boiling water! We will also see and feel the temperature drop that winter brings, and

create cold weather animals and crafts for our Winter Wonders board! Our final step for this theme is participating in our party, where we will enjoy toasty warm hot chocolate in our winter appropriate attire!

Respect Diversity brings us into our 2nd week, where we will be reading the stories, Our Favorites and Whose Shoes? We will discuss how the diversity of the people in our world and classroom is something to appreciate, and how we appreciate the diversity that each Sunbeam brings to our class. Each student will pick a future career goal with their individual interests and strengths in mind, and create a quilt square to represent their goals. We will display our class' diversity in a Class Quilt!

Geographical Concepts is our 3rd theme! We will listen to Dora the Explorer, read about rocks and minerals and different parts of the world, "climb mountains", "swim in oceans", "roll down hills" and even create our own erupting volcano! Our final step during this theme includes creating a large landscaped background, complete with mountains and valleys and oceans!

Our final theme of January, ***Dinosaur Dynasty***, starts off with a Chinese New Year theme day! Our class is responsible for creating a portion of the Chinese dragon and facilitating fireworks crafts! We will make our way into the Dinosaur Dynasty theme by listening to the Flintstones theme song and listening to many dinosaur books. The Sunbeams will be acting out different types of dinosaurs in their ways of movement, playing matching games based on omnivores, carnivores, and herbivores, and creating fossils! We will display H.U.G.P.A.K. dinosaurs on the landscape background we created during Geographical Concepts, and finish out the week by hosting our Dinosaur Village Party!

We have been having a great time with our themes, and are excited to start our new ones in January. As always, if you have any questions, please come to us at any time.

Reminders:

*We will be closed Monday, January 16th.

*Our Dinosaur Village Party will be on Friday, January 27th. We will have a sign-up sheet for foods that omnivores, carnivores and herbivores eat!

*Fruit Day is every Wednesday.

*Show and Tell is every Friday; please bring in something theme or letter of the week related.

*Nap mats must go home every Friday to be washed.

Sincerely,

Miss Chrissy & Miss Nikki