

Rainbows
January 2012



Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday! December was a fantastic end to the year 2011. Over the past month we traveled the world learning about different countries and their cultures, learned how to tell time, reviewed themes we have learned about over the past school year, and made New Year's Resolutions!

The first theme for the month of December was ***Global Sharing***. We took a look at Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa and discussed the traditions of each. We talked about the history of each holiday and what groups of people celebrate each holiday. The Rainbows created holiday mobiles with symbols representing all three holidays. At the end of the week we had a cultural celebration where the students each shared a family tradition and a dish from one of their ethnic backgrounds. The cultural celebration was used to get us excited for the next week's theme!

We then traveled to different countries around the world in the theme ***Universal Bazaar***. The Rainbows went to Thailand, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland, Trinidad, and Peru. In each country the Rainbows learned about the culture, traditions, the dress, language, and tried a dish. They also created a craft having to do with the country they were visiting and then the students got their passports stamped. The Rainbows got the chance to take an even closer look at Thailand from my experiences and stories.

For the third theme in December, ***Traveling Through Time***, we talked about what a clock is and what we use it for, and then we learned how to tell time to the hour and half past. The Rainbows each created their very own clock and we practiced telling time. We also played a game called "What time is it Mr. Fox?" We talked about past tense, and took a look at inventions thorough time and placed them in chronological order in a timeline. At the end of the week we had our holiday party to celebrate the holiday season!

The last theme of the month was ***2012 Welcomes You***. Since this week was a short week we took it easy reviewing the themes we have learned about since the beginning of the school year by playing games. We also talked about what a New Year's resolution is and then each Rainbow created one for school. This was a fantastic end to a great year!

We will be starting the New Year off with ***Winter Wonders***. The letter of the week will be **Q** for quilts. During this week we will be talking about the season winter and how we prepare for it by wearing appropriate attire. We will also be taking a look at

animals and how they prepare for the winter, whether it's by hibernating, migrating, thickening their fur, etc. Since this will be the beginning of the New Year we will be creating calendars and learning about the months in a year. For our craft we will be creating 3-d snowflakes and writing about what we like to do in the winter. At the end of the week we will be having a winter party where we will be enjoying hot chocolate and having a compound word snowball fight made out of toilet paper!

Respect Diversity will be the next theme for the month of January. The letter of the week will be **V** for vision. Since Martin Luther King Jr. day will be taking place the following Monday, we will be talking about him and the impact he made on the United States. We will be talking about the rights and opportunities each and every one of us has because of people standing up for what they believe in. We will also be talking about dreams and visions and how we can go about achieving them. We will be taking a look at similarities and differences throughout the week; one of the comparisons will be between two books written by the same author. The Rainbows will also be participating in a writing prompt, "I have a dream..." and drawing a picture about their dream for our presentation.

We will be learning about the geography of the world in **Geographical Concepts**. The letter for the week will be **M** for maps. We will be taking a look at maps and discussing similar features on each map. We will be talking about flat land, hills, and mountains. We will also be discussing volcanoes and what causes them to erupt. We will then be conducting a science experiment where we will create a volcano and then watch it erupt. We will also be talking about the seven continents and how they use to be attached to form the super- continent Pangea, until the continental drift caused it to break apart.

After learning about the geography of the world we will be jumping into learning about dinosaurs in the theme **Dinosaur Dynasty**. The letter for the week will be **D** for dinosaur. We will be looking at different dinosaurs and comparing their physical features. We will also be measuring how many Rainbows it takes to equal the same length of a select few dinosaurs. After measuring we will be creating a pictograph of this information to see the differences. During this week the students will be researching a dinosaur and finding out what they eat, how big they were, and what their name means. The students will be writing a report and sharing with the class the information they found out.

The last month of the year 2011 was a fun filled one, but the first month of the year 2012 will be even better. As the New Year begins, the Rainbows will be more and more challenged in fun and exciting ways!

Sincerely,
Miss Melissa

- Reminders:
- All children must wear sneakers to A Child's World.
 - Fridays are show-n-tell days. Bring in a toy, book, etc that can be theme or letter related.
 - January 2nd- No School
 - January 6th- Winter Party
 - January 16th- No School