



"Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the
Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
February 2024

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Established 1990

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DIRECTOR

Director:

Winter certainly arrived last month, and the children had fun in the snow at home and at school. In January, we enjoyed another dance party and seeing familiar faces at our Chuck E. Cheese night too. To end the month, we hosted an informative Kindergarten "Know How" for our Pre-K parents. Many thanks to our guest speakers! 😊

In February, we will welcome back Ms. Cathy- a.k.a. Mother Goose, the naturalist from the Walker Nature Center, and the librarian from Reston Regional. Our monthly dress-up day will be a pajama day on Groundhog Day. Then there will be a special Valentine's Day *treat* for the parents at drop off on February 14th, and a special "Leap Day" activity for the children to celebrate February 29th, too.

Have a LOVE-ly February!



- Leila





Assistant Director:

In the month of January, we finally got snow and even some snow days at home, too! Thank you to the parents who posted pictures of your snow days at home on our Facebook page. It was great seeing all the pictures of Simon center children playing in the snow! With my children at home, I attempted to make an igloo which turned into a ramp for sledding!

When February comes around, my favorite day is Groundhog's Day (which is also Pajama Day this year). Watching the children guess if the groundhog will see his shadow is always fun. Personally, I am ready for spring to come early. Fingers crossed! I am looking forward to seeing the class friendship and Valentine's Day projects this month. We will also have a special morning treat for the parents at drop off time on Valentine's Day.

Please keep warm and remember to bring warm weather-appropriate clothing for your child. Winter is officially here!

- Jessica



Board of Directors:

February is here, and we're now entering the coldest part of winter. That said, after holiday gatherings, New Year celebrations, and everything else, it's nice to get a bit of a break and stay warm inside to beat the cold. I hope everyone had an amazing time in the snow a couple weeks ago! As a snow-lover myself, I welcomed it after a two-year hiatus. Even so, here's hoping the groundhog predicts an early spring to bring some warmth back for more outdoor activities.

We're planning an awesome fundraising event for February! Be on the lookout for more information in the coming days. Additionally, the Board is hoping to plan more volunteer events this year for Simon Center parents. We look forward to getting the word out on those soon, as well.

As always, we truly appreciate your involvement in the Simon Center. And as a reminder, we're always looking for more families to join our awesome community! If you know anyone who's looking for childcare at one of the best daycares in NoVA, please have them reach out. Have a wonderful February!

_____ - Adrian (Dad of "Giraffe" Alexander) _____



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Dean

Maeve



Nursery 1 Penguin class:

In the Penguin room, we practice sitting up when reading short books and during music class with Mr. Diego. If interested, please share your child's favorite books with us. We are encouraging the babies to sit with their friends and use books to introduce different topics, such as animals, people, fruits, vegetables, body parts, and singing songs.

Franklin has transitioned well into our room and is a very happy and friendly baby. 😊 He is practicing rolling over and pushing up using his feet. Franklin enjoys playing with the rattles and stuffed animals.

Tessa loves to move everywhere as she is always "on-the-go" crawling. She has adjusted well and is always smiling at everyone. Tessa has enjoyed eating purees and trying different jar foods.

Pearl is such a wonderful baby. She enjoys eating all kinds of purees and drinking her bottles. Pearl is an "army-crawler" and loves to play with pop-up toys and the bottle shakers.

Evie has begun eating some purees and is trying out the new flavors. She loves tummy time and rolling over. Evie enjoys playing with the spinning toys and teething rings.

Oscar is officially crawling and sitting without support. He has been working hard on pulling up and has been eating all kinds of jar foods and trying some table foods, too.

Oscar enjoys playing with the connecting toys and blocks.

Max is officially standing and is very independent when drinking out of a sippy cup. He is also eating table foods and only taking one nap now. Max enjoys playing with the balls and loves the stacking cups. He will be moving to the Monkey class at the end of February. We will miss him, but know he is ready for their class and Monkey antics!

Uma is our oldest and enjoys walking side to side along the room divider. She loves to play inside the small house and crawl through the tunnel. Uma enjoys playing with the dishes and the soft squeezing toys. In late January, she transitioned to NUR 2. We will miss her sweet smile but look forward to seeing her right next door!

Happy Valentine's Day to all and we hope that you continue to enjoy the winter season.

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





Nursery 2 Monkey class:

In January, all our little Monkeys kept busy learning and exploring. 😊

First, we welcomed 2024! We played with confetti and danced to songs to celebrate the New Year.


During the second week, we focused on “Birds in Winter”. The children did sensory play with feathers and listened to stories about birds. We also enjoyed the “sock hop”



dance party. Our Monkeys love the bubble machine!

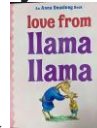
Next, we had a very short week due to snow days and the MLK holiday. Our theme was

“winter clothing”, and oh boy... did we need our mittens  and snow boots!

To end January, we concentrated on the winter snow. We painted snowflakes , and learned a new song called *Little Snowflakes*. Our little ones enjoyed dancing while pretending to be snowflakes falling... too cute!

In January, we said “good-bye” to Hudson and Saylor who both moved up to the Dolphin class. Have fun, boys!! Then, two new Monkeys joined us - Emelie enrolled on the 25th and Uma transitioned in from the Penguin class on the 29th. Welcome, girls!!

In February, Michael will graduate to join the toddlers and Max will join us from next door. Michael will do great as a Dolphin, and Max will enjoy our “monkey business”!



For our themes, the Monkeys will check out Llama, Llama books, spread some love for Valentine’s Day, and talk a bit about President’s Day, Chinese New Year, and Dr. Seuss’ birthday, too. Happy Valentine’s Day!

- Reena and Alicia





Junior 1 Dolphin class:

We finally had proper winter weather last month. We hope everyone enjoyed playing in the snow at home! Back in school, we had indoor recess for a while, but the children enjoyed looking at the pretty blanket of white snow out the windows 😊.

The Dolphins had a great time during the month of January talking about different winter topics, like snow, mittens, and several animals who live in snowy and cold places (like the polar bear, penguins, and even a walrus or two!).

We started off the month with our ‘Snow’ week, and the children had fun painting snowflakes using corks and plastic bottles and singing the *Little Snowflakes* song. They enjoyed reading books about animal friends who like to come out and play in the snow. Next, we continued talking about snow and made a snowman with cupcake liners and cotton balls (the children had fun ripping them up for background snow 😊). Then we made handprints on mitten cutouts and decorated them with stickers.

We only had two days together during the “Polar Bear” week thanks to the big snowstorms, but the children had fun talking about polar bears and making polar bear art using a fork and paint.

For the “Penguin” week, the children learned about penguins while looking at different pictures of penguins and singing along to fun penguin songs (they especially loved the penguin counting song 😊). They also made great penguin art projects by painting snow with bubble wrap mittens and adding penguin cutouts.

To end January, we covered our last weekly theme on the arctic “Walrus”. The class enjoyed fun walrus crafts and activities before moving onto new February themes. Our February themes will be feelings, valentines, community helpers, & transportation. This coming month, we will say good-bye to Lucas who will be leaving the center to spend quality time at home with his grandmother. We will miss him but know he will be in good hands! To end the month, we will welcome Michael to our class from the Monkey room, and we can't wait to get to know him as our newest Dolphin!

There will be lots of love to spread around throughout the month of February and we hope to give lots of extra love to our Dolphins and families. Happy Valentine’s Day!!

- Julia, Warda, and Shirin





Junior 2 Goldfish class:

Oh, what a January! It was fun and exciting and felt like it passed by fast. 😊

We started preparing for the snow way before we got any and even made our own snowmen and fake snow in the classroom. Then it snowed for real! The Goldfish enjoyed our January themes of Snow, Ice, Arctic Animals, and Winter.

Every day we couldn't wait for arts & crafts time because it's a great way to relax and let our creativity run wild.

We read and listened to books about the season, such as S is for Snow, Sneezy the Snowman, Winter is Coming, That's not my polar bear..., Good Night, Arctic Animals, and many more! We sang and danced to fun winter songs, too.

We saw some small changes happen during this past month in our fishbowl. We said "see you around" to Dylan and Mila while saying "welcome" to both Alani and Gaby. In January, we also had to say our goodbyes to Ms. Rama. We are super sad to see her go, and we will miss her very much.

On February 5th, another little fishy who has outgrown the fishbowl will move on to bigger and more challenging adventures in the Panda class. Good luck, Benjamin!

Even though we will miss Ms. Rama dearly, we can't wait to see what fun we'll have with a new teacher in the Goldfish room. We must be popular because Ms. Rosanete and Ms. Rozita are planning to join us to see who sinks or swims and fits right in! 😊

This first month of the year is "completed, done, & finito", and now we say "hello" to February! We will have themes, crafts, and activities inspired by the diversity in our world, such as Lunar New Year, My Sweet Valentine, Black History, Presidents, and a little touch of Groundhog crafting here and there. February here we come!!!

- Mayi and Fettouma





Junior 3 Panda class:

In January, the Pandas had a fun and busy month. We learned about what **clothes** are good to wear during the winter season's cold weather. **Hibernation** was a fun week, and the children liked seeing their stuffed animals hibernating in our class cave, but by the end of the day several friends decided to bring theirs home. The rest were left to hibernate in the cave and to "wake up" in the spring. **Space** was an informative week. Eddie told us all he knew about space... what planets are, about galaxies 🌌, and he also said that there is an American flag 🇺🇸 on the moon 🌕! **Bird** week was all about different types of birds and what they eat. We also discussed how "mommy birds" take care of their hatchlings, even while still in the eggs. We made all different types of birds during our art activities. During Groundhog week, we all voted and made our predictions if Phil the groundhog will see his shadow or not.

We are happy to see how well most of our Panda friends are doing on the potty.

👏 Great job Pandas!

The last week of January, Madeline left us to move next door to the Bear class. Good luck, Maddie!

In February, Benjamin will join our class from the Goldfish room. Welcome, Ben!!

We will have a valentine exchange on the 14th during our circle time. We will send a list of the student's names on Feb. 9th to make sure everybody gets one 😊. Thanks!

Our themes for February will be Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year 🧧, Valentine's Day, Dental 🦷 Health week, and Dr. Seuss. Have a happy Valentine's Day!

- Sarai and Mary



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You are our best advertisement!



Senior 1 Bear class:

Last month, we learned about Winter, Math in Our World, Outer Space, Arctic Animals, and Martin Luther King. The first real snowfall of winter was a “hot topic”, too.

In January, we reviewed the numbers 10 & 11 (our first 2-digit numbers), and the letters K & L.

We welcomed some new students in January- Grace joined us mid-month and Maddie moved in at the end of January. Welcome, welcome!!

As always, the Bears enjoyed practicing their yoga poses with Ms. Nora and learning Spanish vocabulary with Ms. Sarai. The children continued having fun during our weekly Music for Life classes with Mr. Diego, too.

At the end of January, we said “bye” to Luke who will stay home now with his new baby brother... he will be missed!

In February, we will say farewell to Dani who is moving to England, and good-bye to Grace who will stay home once her baby brother is born. We will miss you, girls!!

Our February themes will be about Transportation, Chinese New Year, Friendship, and Marine Reptiles. We will review the letters M & N, and the numbers 12 & 13.

Happy Valentine's Day!

- Rozita, Maryam, and Sameey



Did you know... ?

- Our telephone number when we call you will look a bit different. To call us, please use 703-834-5880. To be sure you know when we are calling you, please save the following numbers to your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673
- As a non-profit, we have an Amazon “wish list” for various classroom wants & needs, as well as for much needed Center supplies. <https://a.co/4WoEviD>

- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page. Please “join us” at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>





Senior 2 Giraffe class:

We started the year with substantive and thought-provoking themes. We used our virtual space gallery to understand more about **Earth and Space**. We were excited to make pictures of the earth, emphasizing the land masses, bodies of water, and atmosphere/space.

Our theme was interesting when we talked about **Dinosaurs**. With our dinosaur toys, big books, and CD with dino-music, the class was very attentive and ready to learn more about dinosaurs. To show what we had learned, we made up a new song called *T-REX WAS THE KING*.

During the third week, we celebrated the birthday of **Martin Luther King, Jr.** by reading and discussing books about him and how he changed history.

Then came the time to learn about examples of and differences in various **Tools and Machines**. We talked about tools we use like hammers and screwdrivers that you might find in a toolbox. At school, we also use different tools, like pencils, crayons, markers, etc. At home we discussed and named kitchen tools and garden tools as well. We even mentioned some machines that help us do our work faster like what we have at home: washer, dryer, and dishwasher. Thus, we learned that tools and machines help us do our work the... easy way!

February themes will be **Rail and Road, Air and Water Transportation, Be My Valentine**, and **Food and Health**. Have a joyous Valentine's Day!!!

!!!

- Pompeii



UPCOMING EVENTS:



- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 2 | Dress up “Pajama” day on Groundhog Day |
| February 5 | Walker Nature Center visits S2 & S3 in AM- “Animals in Winter” |
| February 9 | Mother Goose visits in AM |
| February 14 | Valentine’s Day treat at drop off in AM for parents |
| February 19 | CLOSED for Presidents’ Day |
| February 20 | Librarian visits S2 & S3 in AM |
| February 29 | Special “Leap Day” activity for the students |
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Senior 3 Star class:



We have started the new year off right! Our class has touched on many subjects from discussing math concepts and creating Oobleck. The students enjoyed talking about measurements for the Oobleck in the first week and learning about groundhogs in our last week.

We learned some properties of snow and ice through different activities, like making shaved ice. Also, we painted snow and ice using watercolor paints.

We saw some “Arctic Animals” and made a model that resembles the arctic cold and how animals keep warm using their blubber.

We are learning about winter clothing and how in winter we dress up in our cozy attire to enjoy the cold weather.

The last thing we learned about was during our unit on groundhogs. We talked about their unusual habits and read about their impact on the environment.

In February, we will learn about how **Post Offices and Mail Delivery** systems work in the United States. After that topic, the Stars will embrace the “holiday of affection” by learning about and celebrating **Valentine’s Day**. We will end the month focusing on the importance of **Friendship and Community** and wrap up the month of February discussing **Dr. Seuss**.

In honor of Black History month, we will be reading a variety of different books throughout the month. Our February letters will be C, V, L, & Z.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and trust in us as caregivers and educators for your children. We had a terrific first 100 days of school!

- Roselle and Shatara



Reminder:

Crib sheets, baby blankets, and extra clothes
that your child has outgrown ... please send them our way!

Thanks 😊