



"Simon Says"

The Official Newsletter of the
Robert E. Simon, Jr. Children's Center, Inc.
February 2025

12005 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 30, Reston, VA 20191
Established 1990

simoncenter.org

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DIRECTOR

Director:

In January, we had an interesting month. There were ...

- 12 transitions with six children changing classrooms all on the same day!
- 2 extra days off due to snow ❄️ accumulations
- several days in a row of indoor recess due to the week-long freezing temps



February may be a short month, but we are planning "February fun".

Mother Goose visits to do a show for all classes on the 4th. We have scheduled a pediatric dentist to come in to discuss dental health using balloon art. We will host a Valentine's Day treat in the front hall for our parents at drop off time on the 14th. To end the month, we will have the Walker Nature Center here to discuss "Animals in Winter" with our preschoolers.

Lots of love  ...

- Leila





Assistant Director:

I enjoyed bringing in the New Year with my Simon Center family. 😊

January welcomed us with snow and colder weather... frigid cold weather! We had some stay-home, snow days, and I heard fun snow stories from many friends. I am hoping that spring weather is just around the corner; it is too cold for me!

February brings us three more holidays. For Groundhog Day, we will dress up in pajamas at school (MON, 2/3). On President's Day, we are closed (MON, 2/17), but I am excited to see all the children celebrate Valentine's Day in their classes (FRI 2/14).


Also, I am sure Ms. Annie will set up a fun little Valentine's Day dance in the conference room. This is a great way for all of us to get together and have fun.

Love ❤️ will be in the air (and maybe bubbles, too!).

NOTE: Please remember to label your child's belongings... clothing, bottles, bags, and water bottles. Thanks!

- Jessica

Did you know... ?

- Refer a child & get \$250 off a month's tuition. See Robin or Leila for more details. 😊
- We have an official (and private) Parent Group Facebook page. 
Please "join us" at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/902695849810695/>



Board of Directors:

Happy February! We hope everyone has had a wonderful start to the New Year as we braved the cold and snowy weather. Although I am a fan of warmer weather, the snow brought much excitement to our family as we went sledding and built a snow fort. Here's hoping the Groundhog Punxsutawney Phil predicts a warm and early spring for more outdoor fun. 😊

We want to thank all the families who came out to the Chipotle fundraiser in January. Looking ahead, the Center is excited to provide parents with a special Valentine's Day treat in the morning at drop off on the 14th. Also, if you are having trouble picking out a Valentine's Day surprise for friends or family, don't worry! The Center will, again, be selling delicious cookies from Crumbl Cookies as a fundraiser, which makes the perfect Valentine's treat! This was a huge success last year and we are excited to hold this event again.

As always, we love having families involved in the Simon Center and are planning a volunteer event for some time in the spring. Keep your eyes out for more information to come and feel free to reach out to the Board with ideas of ways you could get more involved.

As a reminder, we love welcoming new families to RESCC's community of kind, caring staff and teachers who provide loving, warm, supportive care to our children. If you know of families looking for wonderful childcare, consider providing them with RESCC's information to schedule a tour and receive more information.

I hope you all find the same comfort in the Center that my family has over the years!

- Kellyn (Mom of "Star" Madelyn & "Goldfish" Brody)



Nursery 1 Penguin class:

Our Penguins love to read books, sing songs, dance, explore, and manipulate different objects. They are crawling, sitting up, taking small steps, and growing each day.

Isabelle is sitting without support. She is working hard on crawling, moving in circles as she reaches for toys. Isabelle enjoys trying different flavors of baby foods, and she loves to play with vinyl books and little fish links.

James is sitting up. He likes rolling over and reaching to grab at toys, and he likes eating his baby food vegetables. James enjoys playing with our soft animals and rattles.

Ethan loves to be at the table and enjoys eating Cheerios and some fruit. He is standing up without help and we are patiently waiting until he takes his first steps. Ethan loves to play in the tunnel and enjoys rolling the cars of the floor.

Charlotte is standing up and practicing walking as she holds onto furniture or on the divider. She enjoys eating the foods that her mother prepares for her. Charlie loves to play with puppets and the cellphones.

Livia is standing and exploring all around the room. She eats food from home and enjoys all her meals. Livia likes to play with bottle shakers and the magic stars.

Clara is crawling, standing, and walking with support by holding onto furniture to help her. She is eating purees from school. Clara enjoys playing with pop-up toys and with stacking cups.

Jack has a bright smile which he shares with us all day long. He is standing while holding onto furniture and has been working on sitting back down after standing. Jack loves to play with the scarves and balls.

Greta also always has a bright smile and it feels as if she has been with us for a long time! She is working on rolling over and sitting up. Greta does not enjoy tummy time, but she likes to play with soft toys and rattles.

In January, we welcomed Greta and Parker to our Penguin class while Naomi, Henry, and Nico all moved next door to the Monkeys. Hugs to all!

This month, we will welcome Emiliano to our class and his parents to Simon Center. 😊

Happy Groundhog Day, Happy Valentine's Day, and enjoy President's Day weekend!

- Luz, Arline, and Rosanete





Nursery 2 Monkey class:

The Monkeys were busy, busy, busy in January.

We celebrated New Year's with confetti and danced to New Year songs.

We learned all about snowflakes and enjoyed sensory play with snow.

We also learned about birds in winter and played with feathers.

We finished the month of January learning about snakes for 2025, the "Year of the Snake". The class painted an egg carton, to look like a snake.

In January, we said good-bye and good luck to our friends Evie and Ezra who transitioned to the Dolphin class. Then, we welcomed new friends- Naomi, Henry, and Nico... Welcome!!!

During the month of February, we will focus on Llama, Llama books, and get ready for the holidays- Valentine's and President's Day. We will also get an early start on celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday. It will be another busy month for the Monkeys.

Please make sure to bring appropriate clothing during these cold months and keep warm.

Sending love! 

- Reena, Alicia, and Fettouma



UPCOMING EVENTS:



- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 3 | Dress up "Pajama" day |
| February 4 | Mother Goose visits in AM |
| February 11 | Dentist visits with balloon art to talk about dental health in AM |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day treat at drop off in AM for parents |
| February 17 | CLOSED for President's Day |
| February 24 | Walker Nature Center visits SR's, "Animals in Winter" AM program |



Junior 1 Dolphin class:

During the month of January, we have been learning about winter!

First, we learned about **Numbers**. We practiced counting to 10 during circle time. We also made a counting caterpillar and apple trees with pom-poms on them. We sang our theme song *Five Little Dolphins*, and read books about numbers, like Count the Monkeys and 123 William Wegman.

Next, we learned about **Ice**. We had fun exploring ice and snow at the sensory table. We added some ocean animals, cups, and spoons to practice scooping. During art, we painted with colored ice cubes and painted on ice. The class loved saying the word “cold.” We read a book called Ice and danced to *Freeze Dance*.

Mid-month, the class was introduced to **Snow**. During art, we painted roller skates and built a snowman with paper. We used bubble wrap to paint the snow in the background. We sang *Frosty the Snowman* and *Little Snowflake*. We also read Gus Makes a Friend.

Towards the end of the month, we learned about **Polar Pals**. For art, they made a polar bear using cotton balls and made footprints using a penguin and a polar bear. The children enjoyed exploring our “Polar Pals” bin with foam icebergs and plastic animals. Our last January theme was **Winter Clothes**. The Dolphins painted and used crayons or markers to make a hat, sweater, and long pants. We read books about winter and checked to see what winter clothing the characters were wearing in each book.

In January, the toddlers really enjoyed new songs, drawing with crayons, and painting with a brush and ice cubes, too. Our other favorite activities included movement and dance activities to *Walking, Walking, Baby Bumblebee*, *Wheels on the Bus*, *If You're Happy and You Know It*, and *Five Little Dolphins*. For large motor play, we all enjoyed going on walks outside, crawling through the tunnel, and climbing the stairs!

In early January, Elijah and Max moved to the Goldfish class. Then towards the end of the month, we welcomed Evie and Ezra to the Dolphins room. 😊

In February, our themes will be **Post Office, Dental Health, Shapes, and Money**.

- Shirin, Fara, and Ellaine



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:



Nico

Charlotte



Junior 2 Goldfish class:

Oh wow! January was a fun-filled month despite the cold front weather we experienced.

We started off by saying goodbye to 2024 and officially welcoming in 2025. We *popped* into the new year by making popcorn art which is on display by our window. We even made some toast as we toasted ourselves a “Happy New Year!”

The following week was for our “Snow ❄️” theme. To our surprise it snowed, and we even had 2 snow days at home. We wished for some snow, and it happened! The class enjoyed making a snowman 🧊 out of big cardboard boxes we painted white. We moved on to painting popsicle sticks in a snowflake design to add to our winter tree. Since we were watching the snow melt from our window and noticed some ice around us, we brought the snow inside for us to play with. We used pipettes to drop colored water on the snow to see what would happen.

We used the colored water and melted snow for our next weekly theme on “Ice”. We used ice to paint an igloo, and we really had to resist the temptation of putting those popsicle ice paintbrushes into our mouths! Next, we painted paper snowflakes. We even painted some winter hats and added pom poms on top.

We finished the last two weeks of the month with an “Arctic Animal” theme. We had sticky fun with glue and cotton balls to make polar bears and we quickly noticed that it was hard to come off our hands. We enjoyed learning facts about different arctic animals. We made some penguins, Snowy owls, narwhals, and walrus too.

In January, we welcomed Elijah and Max to our fishbowl, and we had fun swimming around in the snowy and cold weather. We can’t wait to jump into this upcoming month with some fun crafts and activities.

We plan on discussing diversity in our world for Black History month and the “Year of the Snake”. Our themes for February will include the **Lunar New Year; My Sweet Valentine; Black History Month; President’s Day; and Groundhog Day**. February here we come!

- Mayi, Anjali, and Warda





Junior 3 Panda class:

Hello Panda parents! We hope everyone enjoyed the January snow days, and we hope everyone stayed warm on the very cold days.

Our Panda friends are doing well with potty-training. We now have 4 children in underwear!! Great job, Pandas!

January was a great month! We learned about the different ways the Lunar New Year is celebrated, and we enjoyed learning about Korean culture. The children loved admiring Ms. Mary's beautiful traditional red, pink, purple and gold Korean dress and accessories, too.

Parents, thank you for bringing in a hibernating animal to add to our classroom cave to "sleep" through winter. The students are excited to "wake" them in the spring. The children often remind each other to use their *inside* voices because we do NOT want to wake up a hibernating animal, as "they will NOT be happy".

For Groundhog week, we predicted that on February 2nd he would see his shadow. The Pandas enjoyed doing groundhog art activities as well as pretending to come out of our own burrow (we covered the table with a sheet as our groundhog burrow). Too cute! Nursery Rhymes was a fun week, and we learned about different types of nursery rhymes. The class liked doing an art project for each one.

On Valentine's Day (FRI 2/14), we will exchange valentines. A list of the children's names will be sent home that week for everyone to receive a Valentine's Day card from all their friends. We want to make sure to spread love to all and that no one is left out.

Our themes for the month of February will be **Transportation; Valentine's Day; Dental Health Week; and Dr. Seuss.**

Happy Valentine's Day!

- Sarai, Mary, and Erica



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 also save the following numbers on your phone: 571-375-7671 and 571-375-7673.



Senior 1 Bear class:

We began the month by discussing the New Year and its significance. The children shared their favorite memories from last year and goals for 2025, like being kind to friends, learning new things, and helping at home. To celebrate new beginnings, we created colorful firework art and read books welcoming the New Year around the world. Next, we explored the theme of “2D Shapes”. The class identified and worked with circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, and more! The Bears practiced creating pictures using shape cutouts and enjoyed sorting, matching, and counting different shapes. We also went on a “Shape Scavenger Hunt” around the classroom, finding everyday objects that match various 2D shapes.

The class then zoomed into the world of “Transportation”. We learned about vehicles that move on land, in the air, and on water. We read books about cars, boats, and airplanes. The children enjoyed hands-on activities, like creating a paper ship or boat to float on water, and crafting paper airplanes to fly into the air.

Finally, we traveled to the icy world of the “Arctic” to study animals that live in colder climates. The children learned about polar bears, penguins, seals, and Arctic foxes. We learned how their adaptations help them survive. The students put polar bears in the water to freeze and played with snow in the classroom.

In January, we studied the numbers 19 & 20 and reviewed 1-20. Our January letters were S, T, U, & V. January was a month filled with discovery, creativity, and joy.

We look forward to the new adventures that February will bring. Our weekly themes will be about **Money, Friendship, 3D Shapes, and Weather**. In February, we will study the letters at the end of the alphabet- W, X, Y, & Z. Thank you for your support!

- Rozita and Maryam



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You are our best advertisement!



Senior 2 Giraffe class:

We hope you enjoyed the winter weather we had last month. ❄️ The frigid, cold temperatures and the deep snow & icy patches kept us indoors for too many days! The Giraffes missed the playground, but we still had fun playing in the gym. 😊

During the “Earth & Space” week, we looked at many photos of the planets and learned many interesting facts about them. The children had fun playing with the solar system model and painting the sun with forks.

For “Dinosaurs” week, we listened to the sing-along Dinosaur CD and practiced saying the many tongue-twisting names of dinosaurs. They really know dino-names! During center time, the class had a lot of fun with the big tub of giant dinosaur toys.

We talked a lot about peace, harmony, and equality during the “Martin Luther King, Jr.” theme. The Giraffes each traced a friend’s hand to later decorate and color. Some made peace signs by coloring over taped peace signs then peeling off the tape.

The next weekly theme was “Tools and Machines”. The children had fun tracing toy tools and coloring them. Then they each decorated their “tool bag” with stickers to pack them with their tools that they colored and cut out themselves 😊.

The Giraffes rounded out the month with “Rail & Road Transportation” week. The students loved reading and talking about trains, trucks & cars, and playing with the different transportation toys in our room.

Early in January, Troy graduated from our room to become a “Star”. He was ready for pre-k! When Troy left, we welcomed three new friends- Dax, Luca, and Avery. The boys have settled nicely into the Giraffe class. Welcome Dax, Luca, and Avery!!!

Next month, we will be learning about “Air & Water Transportation”, “Be My Valentine”, “Food & Health”, and “Space & Rockets”. In February, we are hoping for more time on the playground, and of course, a month filled with love and friendship.

Have a lovely February, Giraffe families! ❤️

- Julia





Senior 3 Star class:

In January, we discussed numbers just in time to celebrate the first 100 days of school. Each child brought in 100 items to represent 100 days of school. The students enjoyed our 100-day celebration, and they graphed their favorite to win either donuts or muffins as a 100-day treat.

We painted snow and ice using watercolor paints. The class learned some properties of snow and ice through fun activities, like making shaved ice, playing on the playground with the snow and ice, and by sledding on the snow-covered hill.

Using some Arctic animals, we made a model that resembled sheets of floating ice and learned that animals keep warm using their blubber. The class also enjoyed finger painting bears.

Our week discussing winter clothing included dressing up in our cozy attire to enjoy the cold weather. Thank you for sending in snow pants and boots. We had a blast outside in our winter wear!

In February, we will learn about **groundhogs**, from their unusual habits to reading about their impact on the environment. Next, the Stars will enjoy the holiday of affection when learning about **Valentine's Day**. In honor of **Black History month**, we will be reading a variety of different books throughout the month.

Also in February, we will focus on the importance of **Friendship and Community**. We will end the month by discussing the **post office** and how mail gets delivered.

The letters for February will be Z, V, L, and a review of the letter A.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in us as teachers and educators for your child. The Stars started the year off right. 😊 Now, on to the next 100 days of school!

- Roselle, Shatara, and Sameey



Did you know... ?

- 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>