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Growing Highlights

FEBRUARY 2025



National Wear Red Day is **Friday, February 7,** a day to raise awareness for women's heart health.

Hello Families!

With the frigid temperatures comes a lot of indoor play. The classroom teachers have been doing a great job keeping all the children busy. They have been doing messy art projects, dance parties, center walks, and using the gym to get wiggles out.

I hope everyone found the informal evaluation with your child's teacher helpful. The evaluations were emailed to families and you should have been given their goal sheets to sign. Our next formal evaluations will be held in April. This is when you will be able to set aside some time to talk with your teacher about your child.

Please be on the lookout for classroom parties coming up! I know lots of the classrooms have been preparing sign-up sheets for Valentine's Day parties in their classrooms.

This month's shoutout goes to our youngest baby room, Mr. Jared and Ms. Diane. These

two teachers show nothing but love for their babies. They enjoy spending time with them each and every day! Mr. Jared and Ms. Diane love to make sure the babies get a chance to explore the rest of the building; whether it is taking indoor walks in the stroller or playing in our gym with some of the older babies/toddlers. They always get a chance to see new and different environments. These two teachers also do a great job when it comes to bringing in new activities for the babies to do. The babies have been enjoying different painting activities, exploring with a big ball, playing in snow in the classroom, and going for walks throughout the building. It is always so great to see the love and care Mr. Jared and Ms. Diane provide for our babies!

We always have a display of classroom pictures for our SHOUTOUT of the month. It is located in the main entrance and it stays up for the whole month.

Thanks,
Jess Strick, Director

jess@grandmashouse.org

Year End Expense Statement Request

Scholastic Book Orders

PLEASE HELP US EARN NEW BOOKS FOR THE BEDTIME BOOK CORNER

It's book order time. You are welcome to order as much or as little as you would like.

Orders can be placed online. Go to scholastic.com/bookclubs. You will set up an account in which they will ask for our *center code: JC8WF*. Books can be ordered and paid for online and will arrive at the center 1-2 weeks after the due date.

Book orders are due by *Monday, 2/17*
Reminder, our center earns books each time you order.



- 1 William A.
- 2 Ariana D.
- 2 Ms. Lori
- 6 Mason S.
- 6 James P.
- 10 Michael M.
- 13 Chloe M.
- 16 Quinn L.
- 16 Ms. Cat
- 18 Wesley D.
- 19 Lawson M.
- 19 Ms. Rebekah
- 26 Callen C.
- 27 George H.
- 27 Clark W.
- 27 Ms. Tonia

CONGRATULATIONS

on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

- Ms. Lori 15 Years*
- Ms. Brittnee 11 Years*
- Ms. Ashley Z. 9 Years*
- Ms. Ashley S. 2 Years*



Brown Bear

What a great start to the new year we are having! We are excited to welcome new friends to Grandma's House and watch

Little Superpigs

The cold weather is here to stay. That being said, we ask that each child have snow pants, boots, hat, and mittens. We

them grow. As we get to know our friends, we are enjoying our daily interactions of smiles and coos. Last month, we explored new sensory experiences including painting with colored ice cubes which we created with dye free food coloring. To practice our gross motor skills, we aided the younger infants in practicing rolling both from back to tummy and tummy to back! Our older little ones are learning to sit and crawl. Of course, we read plenty of books each day to expose the infants to language and storytelling. During our Pet theme, we read books about animals and books about snow and winter to match the weather we've been seeing outside. As always, please keep plenty of weather appropriate and well-fitting clothing in your child's cubby in case of diaper leaks or playtime messes! We are looking forward to another great month!

Infants, Mr. Jared and Ms. Diane

Very Hungry Caterpillars

Brisk weather is upon us, and we've had lots of indoor play. We are experiencing more sensory activities such as water table play with a variety of materials. Our class has been developing in lots of areas; eating with spoons during mealtimes, and opening and closing books by themselves. We even sat closely to our friends while we listened to our favorite flannel story, *Wheels on the Bus*. We are even starting to use our pointer finger while looking at our family collages and

do go outside if it feels like 0° or above, and having snow pants even without snow on the playground helps keep us warm. This month we worked on lots of independence skills since most of us are close to turning 3. We worked a lot on getting our shoes on and off. We also worked on having more friends sit on and use the potty/try going on the potty. We also focused on matching and learning some of the letters in the alphabet. We did this by using the letters on a bingo card. Our final focus this month was following two-step instructions when in our classroom.

2 1/2's, Ms. Jennie and Ms. Janell

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

We hope everyone stays warm and enjoys the snow! We know the children have enjoyed the snow. They really enjoy shoveling the playground. This past month we focused on the units Winter and Dinosaurs. During our Winter unit, we practiced putting on our snow clothes by ourselves. We also focused on taking pride in our accomplishments. At home, you can have your child practice getting dressed by themselves, too! During our Dinosaur unit, we practiced the fine motor skill of cutting with scissors. They really enjoy cutting paper into small pieces. You can practice cutting at home, too! You could use old magazines for them to cut and you could even use the cut pieces to make art. This past month we also had two field trips and enjoyed both of

babbling. This month we will be wearing the colors Red or Pink every Friday. Thank you for your participation and remember to label all your child's items.

Older Infants, Ms. Denise and Ms. Savannah

Wild Things

January was very cold and the Wild Things were not able to make it outside very much. We did get a little snow and brought weather inside by exploring snow in our sensory bin. At the first of the year, we said goodbye to our bucket table. Everyone is now sitting at tables and improving every day by eating off plates and using forks and spoons. Yay! We are always working on our language development by encouraging sign language and word combinations through new books and songs. One of our focuses is imitating familiar animal sounds. We are learning this through flannel stories like *Brown Bear, Brown Bear*, songs like *Old MacDonald*, and animal books. During our Gingerbread unit, we practiced our fine motor skills by stamping with gingerbread cookie cutters and by placing gingerbread flannels on the wall. During our Snow/Winter unit we practiced our gross motor skills by throwing felt snowballs into a basket. We also created a snowy collage by placing tissue paper on contact paper. This month we will explore the author Laura Numeroff and are excited about our Red, White,

them. We can't wait to see what the next month brings us!

3's, Ms. Rina and Ms. Madison

The Crayons

Time flies when you're having fun! We cannot believe that it is already February. We have been busy learning and working on new skills! We are so excited to have Ms. Nikki and new friends join our classroom. We loved seeing two plays in January; Cowboy Camp and A Dinosaur play. We like riding the bus downtown to see all the tall buildings and cars. One thing we really worked on in January was how to properly walk with and hold scissors. We did a lot of practice on holding the paper the proper way to cut to make sure our hands and fingers are not in the way as well. One of the activities they enjoyed was cutting the hair of our paper person, the children followed the lines down to the face of the paper person making sure to follow the line and stop when the line stopped. We also made noodle necklaces that we dyed using watercolors and vinegar then placed them on yarn. At home this would be a great activity and if you don't have watercolors your child could paint the noodles different colors. We are enjoying our once-a-month field trips to go and learn about the different places in our community. We cannot wait for our Valentine's party to share and celebrate kindness with everyone.

4's, Ms. Brittnee and Ms. Nikki

Pink, Purple, and Hearts unit.
Toddlers, Ms Lori and Ms. Jenny

Puddle Ducks

“Mine”, “No”, “What’s Up” These are some phrases we have been hearing recently from the Puddle Ducks. One phrase we are still working on is saying, “Olivia”. We have loved exploring our emotions and the different faces we can make; happy, sad, mad, and surprised. As the colder weather hit us, we have been spending lots of time in the gym. But when we have the opportunity to go outside, we get suited up and head right out our door! We are also experimenting with different sensory experiences such as Oobleck, salt dough, and more! We are a little unsure of these, but we will continue to offer the experiences. Repetition! We’ve been loving reading books like Moo Moo Brown Cow and Old MacDonald.

Toddlers, Ms. Cat and Ms. Olivia

Panda Bears

We can’t believe it’s already February. In January, we kept busy by doing different activities like measuring how many bears and snowmen tall we are. It was also super cold outside which meant we couldn’t get outside much, but that didn’t stop us from being active. We went on a lot of walks around the center, had tons of dance parties, and played in the gym. In February, we are looking forward to

Pigeons - 4K

During the month of January, we studied the author/illustrator Jan Brett. You may know her most famous book, *The Mitten*. Jan Brett traveled around the world to get inspiration for her drawings and to rewrite folk tales from different countries. Since this class has been interested in maps, we posted on a map where each of her stories originated from. The class then discussed the environment, animals, and clothing observed in each book.

On another note, this class has been working on what reading is all about. They first learned that letters make a word and how words tell us stories. The 4K class practiced pointing to words as they read aloud and tracked from left to right. We have made a lot of class books where each student adds their own picture or idea to complete the story. It is so amazing how their face lights up when I read their page in the story. Don’t forget, reading is not just adults reading to children but children to be a part of the entire reading process. Enjoy reading WITH your child every day! In the upcoming month of February, our class will be hosting a food drive. We made flyers and posted them around the building. We will be collecting nonperishable food items in the front office. At the beginning of March, we will take a field trip to the Waukesha Food pantry and drop off what we have collected. To better understand why we are donating food, we will read the book *Maddi’s Fridge* by Lois Brandt. This helps the 4K students learn empathy for others

matching 2 similar objects with our file folders and all of the different types of art activities. We will also continue to help with dressing as we get our snow stuff on to go outside. You can encourage this at home by doing the flip trick to put their coat on. We look forward to another fun-filled month.

Toddlers, Ms. Makenzie and Ms. Ashley S.

Jungle Book

The 2's have had a great start to the new year. Last month was filled with a lot of fun activities. During our Snow unit, we did indoor ice-skating using paper plates and used our toy trucks as "snowplows". We created snowmen collages. Our Pizza unit was another highlight of our month. The children really enjoyed their dramatic play Pizza Shop and using rhythm sticks to act out songs about making pizza. We had a blast at our pizza pajama party. Who doesn't love getting cozy and eating pizza?!? In February, we will be looking forward to our Dinosaur unit where we will talk about all the different dinosaurs and our Valentine's Day Party. Party information will be messaged as we get closer. Here's to a fun and exciting February!

2's, Ms. Amanda and Ms. Bree

and how to be grateful for the food we have. Please consider donating!

4K, Ms. Holly