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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.

Dear Parents,

Warm hugs/snuggles are the best cure for the cold chilly month of February and luckily the children at Grandmas House give the best hugs!

The shortest and arguably the coldest month of the year is upon us, so I wanted to just make sure everyone knows our outdoor policy. Children under the age of two go outside 2x daily even in the winter; it must "feel like" 20 degrees Fahrenheit in order for them to be able to go (we take into consideration the wind chill to determine the "feels like" temperature). Children 2 years old and older go outside if the "feels like" is 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Snowpants, boots, jackets, hats, and mittens (oh my!) should be labeled with child's first/last name or at the very least initials to help the staff and kiddos keep everything straight. All of those items multiplied by 8 (at the very least) is a lot to keep track of!

Our next registration opening is currently February of 2026. So if a new addition to your family is in your mind get those registration forms to me sooner rather than later.

Stay warm, stay healthy!

Thanks,

Cassie Makinen, Director

cassie@grandmashouse.org

"The color of springtime is flowers; the color of winter is in our imagination" – Terri Guillemets

Year End Expense Statement Request



- 1 Violet L.
- 1 Charlie M.
- 3 Roman R.
- 6 Atticus S.
- 8 Ethan W.
- 11 August S.
- 13 Rosalind L.
- 15 Ryann H.
- 18 Elle B.
- 18 Oscar S.
- 21 Evelyn S.
- 22 Emerson L.
- 25 Emmi M.
- 26 Ms. Dawn
- 27 Ms. Cassie

CONGRATULATIONS

On celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Cassie 15 Years

Ms. Courtney 12 Years

Look What We Did!

Infants

This new year has started off great as we continued to work on our gross motor muscles while practicing sitting and playing on tummy time. We will continue to work hard on this type of play through the rest of the month. We will do this by encouraging the babies to reach a decorated activity bar while we play sitting up with the support of the teachers. We will also work on practicing facial expressions in the mirror. You can help with this throughout the day. For example, when you open the car while getting them out, make a silly face (sticking out tongue or blow raspberries). You can also make silly sounds while making faces. Have fun being silly!

Ms. Ana and Ms. Virginia

2nd Infants

It's crazy how we are already two months into 2025. We have been hard at work with our gross motor! Many of our friends were flexing their strength by pulling up and cruising/walking. Last month we celebrated the new year and learned about different winter animals. We talked about sounds they make and viewed pictures on our flannel board wall. They also enjoyed some songs. As we dive into this month,

Older Toddlers

We want to give a warm welcome to all our new friends who have joined our classroom over the last few weeks. Over the past month, we have been learning about all things winter; from winter holidays to polar animals. We have been reading lots of winter stories, making fun art projects, and identifying/naming people, places, and things.

We are now learning about space! We have been discussing stars, planets, aliens, and spaceships while practicing matching colors and similar objects. We are also really trying to practice our self-help skills; especially when taking winter clothes on/off (this is a great thing to practice at home). Please encourage the children to be independent and use their words when they need help and continue to work on these skills at home. Stay warm and have a wonderful month!

Ms. Kim and Ms. Alaini

2's

Welcome to February! Has everyone stuck to their New Year's resolutions? Hello and welcome to our new friends! We hope you are ready for some fun learning. To start this month, we will finish our exploration of winter and

we are learning about friendship and building our self-concepts. We will sing flannels as a class and even create a “band” by playing instruments together. Try creating a family “band” at home with toys around the house. Have a great month!

Ms. Kayleigh and Ms. Brianna

3rd Infants

We hope everyone enjoyed their Holidays and got to spend lots of time with family and friends! We wanted to incorporate that in our last month’s activities as we worked with peers on social emotional awareness. We have been learning how to share and/or swap toys with one another. Also we are practicing naming feelings by pointing out that a friend may be sad and how to comfort with a hug or offering a toy. We are working on taking special care of our stuffed animals and baby dolls in the classroom as we rock them to sleep or give them hugs and kisses. We also got to explore multiple art items, such as glitter and dotters. We want to continue exploring different textures as we gear up for some snow exploration in the next couple of weeks! We have some fun experiments coming up, such as fake snow and making sensory bottles/bags to continue using multiple senses with the colder weather keeping us indoors. As new friends move around to different classrooms, we are hoping to continue the tradition of helping transition by saying/waving hello and goodbye as well as blowing kisses to each

winter animals. Hopefully we will have snow to play in! We got to make fake snow, which is easy to make at home. All you need is a bottle of conditioner and baking soda. Please see us for more details if you are interested. We will then move on to Care Bears, Emotions and Dr. Seuss. As always, self-help skills are key milestones with this age. At home, please keep encouraging your child to push down pants at diaper time, pull on snowpants, clean up after themselves, and “tap, tap” their plates to remove food from plate into the garbage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Ms. Courtney and Ms. Esther

2.5's

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! We have had a lot of changes in the last month, but we are doing a great job adjusting to all of them! We have said goodbye to some of our older friends, but we have also made new younger friends. We have also had a change in teachers as we welcome Ms. Hannah to our GnomeSchool! We still get to see Ms. Stephanie around the center and on the playground. We have been learning about all things musical. The GnomeSchoolers have been learning the names of various instruments and how they sound. We have been listening to their favorite songs from their favorite movies, which is why we decided to learn all about movies and the theaters they are shown in. Your little "gnome" learned how popcorn is made, what slushies are, and

child and family member that drops off and picks up. Thank you all for encouraging this as we help friends transition to our routine.

Ms. Amy E. and Ms. Cherish

Toddlers

Hope everyone started the new year right! We know our friends did. We started 2025 with practicing using spoons at morning snack time instead of just our fingers, as well as counting. We counted everything we could see/touch! Another small motor activity the toddlers enjoyed last month was placing objects inside of small openings (jugs of juice). This activity really lays the foundation for getting their fingers ready to hold/manipulate small objects. In February, we will be starting the month learning about animals and what sounds they make. We'll be doing some fun process art activities and some sensory fun!! For Valentine's Day, we will be having a Valentine Pajama Party!! We will be sending out a letter with more information on that (be on the lookout). Our next lesson is going to be about friendship, caring for others around us, and being mindful of our friends' bodies. We'll be practicing gentle touches and using our words when upset or needing something. Same as always...if you have any questions, feel free to ask! Happy February!

Ms. Mai Lee and Ms. Zoe

how to make soft pretzels. They would be excellent helpers in the kitchen at home! We also talked about soundtracks and stunt people. We have talked about all the safety measures that are taken to keep them safe. Please remind your little one that we keep our hands to our own body and "stunt work" is best done outside. We are working a lot on keeping their bodies safe as well as other people's bodies. Any questions, please let us know!

Ms. Amy R. and Ms. Hannah

3's

We've made it into the second month of 2025! I hope everyone is staying warm and enjoying the beginning of the new year. Last month we made so many delicious foods during our cooking unit; Fruit Pizza, peppermint bark, and a strawberry avocado smoothie! Wowza, what chefs! Our friends followed the directions on the recipe, counted out loud, and measured ingredients. They will be awesome little chefs at home too with some simple recipes. We have moved onto our kindness unit. What does it mean to be kind? We think the 3's can show all of us a thing or two about kindness. Parent reminders: We are so excited to have you join us for "Breakfast with a Loved One" on Friday 2/14, for Valentine's Day. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! Stay Warm!

Ms. Abi and Ms. Emily S.

2nd Toddlers

Hello families! Last month brought a lot of changes as we welcomed new friends and Ms. Katherine into our toddler room! Our new friends are very familiar with the room and have adjusted well to the transition because we are not that different than the first toddler room. We do emphasize more independent tasks such as using spoons, taking off hats, and helping clean up toys. For cleaning up, we just hand the children a toy and ask them to put it on the shelf or in the library. Most times they put it on the nearest shelf and that's okay! We're laying down the groundwork to help them clean up in the later classrooms and at home and they enjoy the praise and applause for trying. They can do simple clean up tasks at home as well after playing. Despite the days when it was too cold to go outside, we still had plenty of fun around the toddler classrooms. We celebrated the new year with themes of snow, ice, and the cold and were able to focus on many sensory activities to keep busy and warm indoors. Let's bring some warmer weather in the next month with more fun activities!
Ms. Emily and Ms. Katherine

3rd Toddlers

February...short on days, but long on anticipation. While the chilly days have been keeping our tots inside a lot, there has still been monkey-ing around in different classrooms, exploring new toys

3-4's

To get the ball rolling into the new year, we started off with a fun Disney unit. We read all the classics: Mulan, Hercules, Beauty and the Beast, Little Mermaid, Pinocchio, Toy Story, Finding Nemo, Lion King, Rapunzel, and Winnie the Pooh. We compared and contrasted different versions of Cinderella to the original Disney one, as well as Hansel and Gretel and the Little Engine that Could. For the many different stories, we worked on retelling the story by sequencing the events in order. We played letter Disney bingo to put our alphabet knowledge to the test. We also played many different memory card games which included more story characters. We worked on fine motor strength by lacing cards that were, you guessed it, Disney characters. We practiced gluing and cutting by making headbands and masks, then had fun acting out different characters. We painted with our fingerprints and handprints, made bracelets, and also made little oceans in a bottle made with water, food coloring, sequins, and glitter. The ocean bottles were on the day of The Little Mermaid as well as letter O week. During our winter and snow unit, we listened to rhymes in stories, discussed snow around the world, painted tons of snow pictures and offered sensory experiences with salt writing trays, artificial snow trays, and built sugar cube igloos. The water cycle played a big part in our unit as we learned where snow comes from. We enjoyed hot chocolate and learned to sing in Spanish as we stirred.

and activities. Last month, we learned about the various habitats animals live in; from the ocean to jungles and deserts. We even observed pictures of live feeds from Zoos and wildlife parks all over the country. Then our tots got to explore some fun winter activities from the warm indoors with our “chilly weather” unit. We “decorated” trees and “made cookies” with salt and paint dough. The children have been improving their self-care skills like scrubbing with sponges and loofas, brushing hair with toy combs, and practicing dressing with a variety of play clothes. With our sports unit, we were able to experiment with different equipment and new ways to move our bodies. All while having fun as we work our muscles and our minds. Physical activity is a great way to burn off extra energy and keep busy even when stuck indoors; whether it’s practicing soccer kicks across the floor or basketball throws into a laundry hamper. It is also another great opportunity to practice play rules, taking turns, and sharing. Stay warm!

Ms. Elise and Ms. Kailie

We continue to work hard to independently dress ourselves with full on winter gear. We are now coming up to letters S and T and moving into the unit Pets and Animals! To finish off January, we had a field trip to the First Stage Children Theater to see the Dino Play. We are excited to perfect our knowledge on numbers 1-10 and the alphabet, refine our writing skills, and expand our creative minds! During February, we will grow our class into a double and both of us will be a preschool all-star every day. Updated portfolios have been sent over the MyKidzDay app end of January for your chance to look over your child’s progress and set a quick informal conference with Ms. Allie or Ms. Lizzie, at drop off or pick up.

Ms. Lizzie and Ms. Allie