



## Giraffe Newsletter January, 2022

The children happily returned to school after the break with much excitement and enthusiasm. We celebrated the New Year by creating 2022 signs with ripped paper and glue. We also took a peak at a calendar during our circle times. We finished out our Family unit by playing with doll houses, pretending to wash doll clothes and hang them with clothes pins on a clothesline, making family finger puppets and hiding little families in shaving cream.

Next, we decided to blast off into Outerspace as our new theme. The children loved this experience of learning, pretending, and being genuinely curious. We started with a collaborative project of painting a very large box to become our spaceship. We set up a command center where the children could communicate like a NASA team using headphones, keyboards and push button telephones. We also created chalk and star sticker pictures, built with foam blocks and incorporated different sized rocket ships into our play. All of our art projects were fan favorites. They included glitter finger paint on tinfoil, model magic 3-d aliens, creating alien headbands to wear and dripping paint with an eye dropper onto a coffee filter to represent the earth or the sun. At the science table we put real rocks with "moon" rocks made out of tinfoil onto a balance scale and then used a weighing scale and noticed how heavy or light the objects were.

Our large group times consisted of wonderful songs, spacetime yoga, and great books. Highlights also included asking the children what they knew about space, a sorting game called "Where does it belong?" (The children chose an item from the mystery box and decided if it belonged in space or on our planet earth.) We also looked at a jar filled with little astronauts and the children guessed how many were in the jar. Then we used a counting line to determine how many were actually in the jar. They also collaborated on the construction of a rocket ship together using blocks, played a matching astronaut game and acted out blasting off into outer space.

### **Some books, songs, fingerplays and movement we shared**

Kitten's First Full Moon by K. Henkes, Mooncake, Happy Birthday, Moon, and Moonbeam Bear all by F. Asch, Paper Please Get the Moon for Me by E. Carle, Aliens Love Underpants, and Aliens in Underpants Save the World both by C. Freedman, and Astronauts and What They Do by L. Slegers.

Greg and Steve's "Adventures in Space", "Climb Aboard the Spaceship", and The Kiboomers "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom We're Going To the Moon" were some of the songs we sang. We did a spaceship hip hop dance and a rocketship finger play. We also had two visits from Teacher Pat.

### **Important Information**

Our plan is to go out every day, if the "feels like" temperature is *18 degrees* or higher. Being in the fresh air and enjoying what each season has to offer is an important part of our philosophy. **With that in mind if your child comes at 8:30, if possible please have them dressed in their outdoor gear so they are ready to play on the playground when they arrive. Our 8:00 friends will be dressing upstairs.** We realize some days are harder to gauge than others. Thanks for your cooperation with this.

"Valentine's Day" is coming and we will be celebrating with our classmates on Monday, February, 14, and February, 15, 2022. The children will be making cards for all of you and we will have fun activities to do together. Please do not send in valentines to be distributed to each classmate. We will explain in an upcoming email. Our emphasis is to focus on love for our families and joy at experiencing things together as one wonderful giraffe community. Kim will also be notifying all of you in her newsletter.

Lastly, we want to thank you for taking the time each day, to mask your child for school, replenishing when they run out, and removing the wet ones that are in a separate bag. We also appreciate you checking to make sure it is a well fitting mask. We are doing our best to make sure things are extra clean and the children are washing their hands or using sanitizer throughout the day. If your child is out sick and you are emailing Kim and Sharon, please add us to the email communication. Thank You!

**Happy Winter! Jeanne, Adrienne and Niki**