

# Early Learning Center ~ Where Families Connect to Learn, Grow and Play!

January 2023

## Notes from the Director:

Dear ELC Families,

Happy New Year!! With the snow closures and our scheduled winter break it was a long vacation for some families. Welcome back.

One of the ways we can honor **MLK Jr Day** in early childhood is to teach our children about empathy. On that note, please join me in extending a special **welcome to families new to the ELC.**

While the majority of new students enroll in September, the nature of being at a college is that every quarter families leave, and families join us as well. It can be hard to feel at home at first when it seems like everyone else knows each other, the routine and the campus! If you are a continuing family, please consider taking a moment to welcome a new child or family. You will be helping to build community at our school, and also teaching an important value to your child through your example. See more ideas on building empathy, attached.

As your family starts the New Year, with all the new routines and new opportunities ahead, please let us know if there are new ways we can understand and support you as a family.

Warmly,  
*Lisa Miller*  
Center Director

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## What are the Infants up to?

This January will be a little different for the infant room. First, we have one year old's moving into the one-year-old classroom! Teacher Brian will be splitting his time between the infant room and T-6 room to support this move while Teacher Mahboobeh stays in the infant room.



Our oldest children were showing their new skills, standing up unsupported and trying to take steps, in getting ready for the new room. Our remaining friends have been busy practicing new skills of their own. We have children at different stages of eating.

One, spoon feeding and trying different foods and tastes. The other feeding themselves while practicing holding spoons and cups independently. There's also some practice with self soothing as well. Everyone is just growing so much!

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## What are the Young Toddlers Up to?

Happy New Year! We are so excited to have the little ones back in the classroom and eager to start their day. We have missed everyone and it looks like the children have missed each other too! We are so happy to welcome two new babies from the infant room, Dora and Owen. We are also excited to have Brian joining us with supporting both T6 and Infant room.





We've been busy and enjoying our time in the classroom building relationships and creating positive interactions with one another. We often reach to feed and take care of the baby dolls and explore the new toys hiding in the classroom. We've found different activities to keep us busy when it was too cold/icy to go outside like art and the rainbow parachute.







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communicate their needs and words, we will continue to support their language with repetition through songs, books and narrating their play

Toddler 6 Teachers

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Assistant Teacher Hideyo

## What are the Young Toddlers up to?

Welcome back and hello to 2023!

December was an interesting but very short month for the children. They enjoyed learning about the cold weather and snow. We shared many wonderful conversations about: warm clothes, snow ice and staying safe in the cold. We enjoyed using playdough and playdough tools to work on both our creative and fine motor skills.

The children enjoyed the stories, The Snowy Day, and The Mitten. The children are also working hard on serving themselves lunch and clearing their own dishes away afterwards. The sand table remains a favorite activity it's always a fun spending time together measuring and pouring the sand into containers.







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sing. For example, we will be using the song; "Old McDonald" as we enjoy learning about farm animals.



Practicing fine motor skills

Learning to cut!

This month we will undertake another cooking project! It will be great practice: taking turns, measuring and following directions! We are also planning some fun finger-painting projects and Crayon resist drawing/painting too! For science we will be watching and learning about insects as we see caterpillars grow into butterflies.

Looking forward to learning and growing together.

Lisa Ann and Sisley

Toddler 5 Teachers

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**What are the 2s and 3s up to?**



The children were excited to see the snow and had the opportunity to explore the snow outside. They stomped in the snow and they would hear the crunchy sound their feet made and they would stomp some more. The children had fun playing in the snow on the playground and the teacher



During the month of December, the teachers provided different art activities for children to explore open ended art activities. The benefits of open-ended art allow children to express themselves through their art which supports their understanding of their own emotions and provides a tool for self-regulation.



It provides opportunities to use language related to their creations and their emotions. They are also developing and refining their fine motor skills as they manipulate materials or use tool. It also encourages the highest levels of creative thinking and stimulate children exploring materials, methods and natural curiosity drives them to engage in problem solving. These early experiences with creative thinking provide many of the skills needed to succeed later in life. We have a hand-out in the Toddler 2 classroom which gives you ideas that can support your child's creativity at home and some suggestions on how to talk to them about their art work at home.

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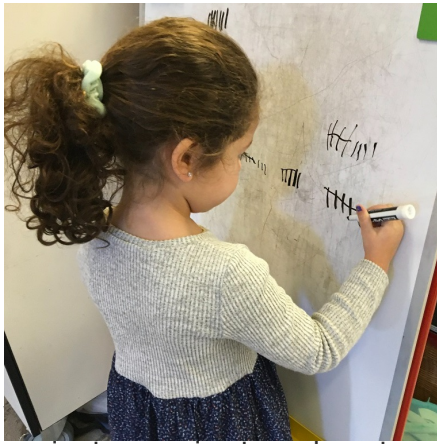
## What is Pre-K 1 up to?

We have been very busy learning in the PreK-1 class, everything from math to science.

We are learning the value of numbers and expressing these numbers in the form of tally marks and working with dominoes. The children were instructed to look at their dominos and then transfer the number dots to paper. From there they decided which side was larger and smaller. We added the two sides, practicing our writing skills and number recognition. Both these activities help your child develop number sense (math abilities) and an understanding of quantities and concepts of *more* and *less*. We practice individually at the table on paper, and we also invite each child to come to the whiteboard and tally out numbers.







projects require two days to complete. We collected milk cartons from our summer picnics and this month we painted them brown to look like gingerbread. The following day everyone embellished their houses as we listened to *The Gingerbread Man*.



Science came directly to our school in the form of SNOW. Talking about the weather and different forms of precipitation was the topic of the day. Conversations included how cold our hands were after playing in the snow.

Be sure to write your child's name on their gloves. Twenty children times 2 gloves mean 40 gloves to sort and return to their proper cubby, Wow that's a lot of math for these teachers!



Here is an experiment for you to do at home if it gets down below freezing. Lay a wet cloth outside and in the morning take a look and see if it is frozen solid and flat like a piece of paper. Your child will be amazed and they will remember it for a lifetime. Even better, try laying a small shirt of pants outside and get ready to laugh with them at the frozen clothes.



Pajama Day was filled with games, art, music and hot chocolate. Everyone had a great time, even though we were all in PJ's no one was tired, fancy that!

Welcome 2023!  
Page, Karen and Abby

Pre-K 1 Teachers

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## What is Pre-K 2 up to?

WOW!! We can't believe it is the end of the year. December started with winter weather. The children and the teachers loved the snowy start of the month. They rolled snow into balls to create snowman, made snow angels, tossed snow in the air and at the wall. The children also used shovel and rake to gather and collect snow in pails and other containers. And was the snow cold! The children soon remembered why we wear mittens/gloves.





Just a reminder WINTER is HERE? Please make sure your child is adequately dressed and they have extra clothes.



The prekindergarten classrooms had a pajama day. It was exciting to come to school in jammies. All the children shared what character was on their pajama. Kudos to the children in Prekindergarten 2, they all remembered to follow our listening rules even though it was pajama day. They got a surprise treat of hot chocolate with marshmallows and teddy graham crackers. It turned into a learning and counting activity as the children counted how many marshmallows and crackers they each got. They noticed that all of them got the same amount.



Good job team! They worked together to build a block tower



Three friends at the sand table, three sticks in the pockets to show they should be there!

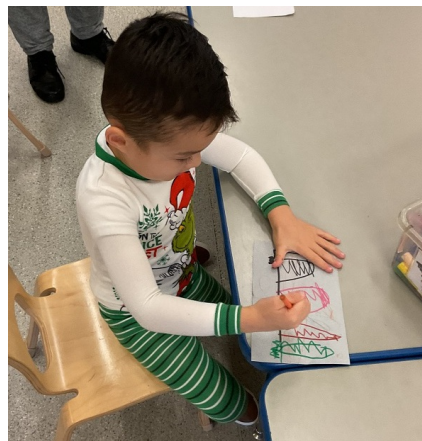


The children use name sticks in the classroom to work in centers. This has reduced conflicts regarding who was in the center. The children are able to solve the problem by just looking at the pockets and also advocate for themselves as well as their friends. They remember the routine and this helps them to regulate their emotions and take care of their needs appropriately.

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## What is Preschool 3 up to?

In December we spent the month learning all about recycling and compost! We have discussed what kinds of materials and items can be recycled and which ones should be thrown out. When discussing compost we connected our experiences with how we contribute compost at school every day at breakfast and lunch!



We will be wrapping up our recycling unit at the beginning of January and will transition to our next unit 'Signs!' In this unit we will explore all types of signs ranging from signs we see on a daily basis, their meaning, and even sign language!

We encourage you to point out signs with your child to help further teach and connect their experience to the world around them!

## What is Preschool 4 up to?

In the month of December, we have been studying clothes. We have been learning the names of different types of clothes in English and Mandarin. We have discovered where the clothes come from and who makes them. Also, we have been practicing putting on and zipping up our jackets by ourselves before going outside. Half of the class can do it with ease. Some of our children are still working on their skills.

While approaching the end of our clothes study, we had a preschool pajama day. To celebrate our special day, we made a poem called "Hey, Hey, Pajama Day." The week before the pajama day, our children participated in a lot of fabulous winter art activities, such as making 3D trees, cutting out snowflakes, creating snowmen, and decorating gingerbread house. At the end of the pajama day, when the children were drinking the hot chocolate, some of them said, "Pajama Day is fun. We want again."





Our Fall parent-teacher conference had a great turnout. 12 families signed up for the virtual or in-person meetings. During these meetings, we celebrated all the wonderful progress our children made and set up goals for their future learning. Our teachers appreciated all the wonderful support and understanding from our amazing parents. Our children are fascinated by what is in garbage cans and garbage trucks. This natural curiosity provided a good starting point for finding out what happens to trash after it's thrown away and exploring the concept of reducing, reusing, and recycling. In the beginning of the new year, we will be starting a new study unit: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. We welcome any recyclable items from our families to enrich our study.



Snow is so magical

Winter clothes means we can practice our self help skills like zipping our jackets

Again, the classroom teachers always appreciate our families bringing in all kinds of appropriate warm weather gear for our children to wear outside in these extremely cold days. Since P5, our large motor room, was reopened, the children can explore in P5 instead of playing outside in the cold.

Preschool 4

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