

Pre-Kindergarten News

Somerset Academy

February 2018

Freezing and Melting

Exploring the properties of water, we conducted several experiments about freezing and melting. Children expanded their skills of observation and prediction as they used a variety of methods to try and melt ice. They also experimented with freezing water outside.



(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Language and Early Literacy Development: 3. Knowledge about the Earth.) 2. Children can talk about the observable properties of earth materials (sand, rocks, soil, water) and living organisms.

(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Approaches to Learning; Habits of Mind: 5. Early Learning Expectation: Reasoning-Problem Solving-Reflection. Children demonstrate a growing capacity to make meaning, using one's habits of mind to find a solution or figure something out.) 3. Children show an increasing ability to predict outcomes by checking out and evaluating their predictions. 6. Children gather information and learn new concepts through experimentation and discovery, making connections to what they already know.

Curriculum

This month we will begin focusing on handwriting development using the Handwriting Without Tears program. Children will practice writing letters and words using a variety of materials during small group activities.

(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Language and Early Literacy Development: 2. Writing Skills. Children begin to develop writing skills to communicate and express themselves effectively for a variety of purposes.)

As Valentine's Day approaches, we will also be supporting the development of kindness and appreciation through many of our classroom activities.

(State of Michigan Early Learning Expectation: Approaches to Learning; Habits of Mind: 7. Respect for Self and Others.) 7. Children demonstrate the ability to care, can respond with sensitivity or sincerity, and later empathy.

Resource Corner

Helping Your Child Understand the Concept of Kindness

While kindness and empathy are abstract concepts and difficult for young children to understand, they are important skills for children to begin to learn at an early age. Research shows that kindness can have positive effects on health, self-esteem and even happiness.

You can support your child better understanding how to be kind through your own actions and language. Help a neighbor, volunteer in your child's classroom or simply show kindness to your family in your own home. Identifying what the act of kindness was, who it was for, and pointing out how that kindness had an impact, can further help your child understand the importance of being kind.

February 2018

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Number of the Week: 3	1/29 Spanish am	1/30 Spanish am	1/31 Spanish pm Parent Meeting 6:30-7:30	1	2
Number of the Week: 4	5 Spanish am	6 Spanish am	7 Spanish pm	8	9
Letters E and F					
Number of the Week: 5	12 Spanish am	13 Spanish am	14 Spanish pm	15 Parent Coffee 9:15	16
Letters D and P					
Number of the Week: 6	19 Mid-winter break No School	20 Mid-winter break No School	21 Spanish pm	22	23
Letters B and R					
Number of the Week: 7	26 Spanish am	27 Spanish am	28 Spanish pm	3/1	3/2
Letters M and N					

Announcements and Reminders!

- **Kindness Tree!:** To support the Pre-K children in having a more meaningful experience of Valentine's Day, we will be creating a Kindness Tree! Please see the attached page for details.
- **Valentine Snack Sign-up!** Please watch for a special **Valentine's sign-up list (for the week of February 12-16)**, which will be **posted on the class website January 29**.
- There will be **NO SCHOOL** for children in **Monday, February 19 and Tuesday, February 20** for mid-winter break.