



February/March 2018

Saint Dominic Child Care Newsletter

Announcements:

- Please join our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on **March 29th**
- The Daycare is **CLOSED March 30th** for Good Friday
- Please **DRIVE SLOWLY** on the church campus
- Keep a look out for postings on 2018 fundraisers

Thank you for all of the generous donations we have received thus far!!

What we have done in February:

Our Infant 1 children learned about love, emotions, building friendships, and being part of a group. We encouraged sharing toys and building positive attachments. As they initiated play with each other we also identified their feelings and emotions.

Our Infant 2 children developed their awareness of animals including the characteristics of a groundhog. The children were encouraged to participate in creating footprint groundhogs as well as clapping along to various related songs! This stimulated specific brain activity and enrichment.

Our Toddler 1 children developed cognitive skills such as problem solving. The children sorted out popsicle sticks that were different shades of pink and red. They were then encouraged to put the puzzle together which created a heart. The children also developed math skills in this activity such as matching, sorting, and one to one correspondence.

Our Toddler 2 children had fun decorating colorful Mardi Gras masks. The children were then encouraged to use their imagination and social skills to play open endingly with the masks. They finished the month with a discussion on dental hygiene and participate in various related art experiences.

Our Toddler 3 children learned about hearts by tracing the shape and reviewing the characteristics of a heart during circle time. We also practiced different ways we can use our words by practicing to sign "I Love You".

Our Three's children were encouraged to perform acts of kindness (sharing, using manners, saying kind things and creating cards) at school and at home. We have also implemented a pompom reward system after reading "Have you filled your bucket today?" by Carol McCloud. This system encourages children to respect and be kind to others.

Our Four's children talked about animal habitats and created a classroom diorama. The children also put on a play that recreated the story "My lucky Day" by Keiko Kasza. They worked together as a group to develop their imagination as well as enhance their recall and memory skills.

Taking a look at March:

Our Infant 1 children will learn new sign language gestures in circle time. We will introduce to them the sign rainbow as we review all of the colors of the rainbow. We will also challenge the children's gross motor development as we set up different obstacles for them to overcome in the gross motor room.

Our Infant 2 children will learn about the colors of the rainbow. We will encourage the children to repeat certain sounds to enhance their expressive language skills as we help them identify the different colors. We will focus on the color green as the children use their fingers to paint shamrocks.

Our Toddler 1 children will be discovering where they find the solar system as we take a campus walk and point up to the sky. We will introduce stars, planets and astronauts to the children as they pretend to blast off in a rocket ship. The children will identify new words when we read related stories.

Our Toddler 2 children will be learning about different animals. The children will be encouraged to bring in their favorite animal book or stuffed animal from home to show their friends at circle time. The teachers will use this opportunity to build their language skills as well as their attention span by discussing the different animals they notice.

Our Toddler 3 children will be learning about flowers and how they smell. The teachers are planning creative ways to teach them about the parts of a flower such as the stem, pedals, and leaves. The children will explore their senses and the world around them as they plant flowers and manipulate soil.

Our Three's children will be learning about compassion and responsibility as we review pets and how we care for them on a daily basis. We will also learn the sounds different letters make through various show and share activities.

Our Four's room will be building up positive relationships and developing their friendships as we introduce sticker charts when the children engage in kind acts. We also will blend letters and learn the sounds that two letters make as we practice pre-phonics at circle time.



A Note from the Director:

I think we have made it through WINTER! We truly value your patience as I know it can be a hardship with all the snow closings. Please know we make every effort to keep the children and staff safe in inclement weather. Just a friendly reminder that we strongly encourage people to use their door codes and not to walk in with anyone else. This includes holding the door for others. Lastly, we are very excited to start planning our 2018 summer program for the children as well as introduce our iPad system very soon. This will enhance our program and add additional educational value to our already AMAZING structural routines. ~Michelle