



January 2018

Saint Dominic Child Care Newsletter

Announcements:

- Valentine's Day Social 2/14/18 – Stay posted on details!
- Thank you for providing us with your child's flu shots!
- Saint Dominic Child Care will be open for Presidents Day
- We are looking for ways to make our environment better
* Please email Michelle with any suggestions *

What we have done in December:

Our Infant 1 children worked together on a classroom Christmas tree creation. Each child was encouraged to walk and stomp on the classroom mural leaving their footprints behind. The children developed their gross motor and balance coordination skills as well as learned to be a part of a group.

Our Infant 2 children learned about holidays that are celebrated all over the world. The children created handprint menorah's as they stimulated their sense of touch. They also practiced stacking blocks to strengthen the children's gross motor skills, spatial awareness, and problem solving skills.

Our Toddler 1 children learned about many traditions that are practiced all over the world. We introduced the children to some of these customs during circle time and through creative art experiences. We also introduced daily living skills by mixing our own ingredients to make salt dough ornaments.

Our Toddler 2 children were encouraged to participate in various art experiences to focus on holding paint brushes, crayons, and other writing materials the correct way. The teachers used hand over hand techniques to guide the children to success and strengthen their fine motor skills.

Our Toddler 3 children focused on building their verbal skills as well as expressing their emotions through songs, stories, and art. We are working on developing independence and encouraging self-help skills through our daily routines such as hand washing, cleaning up, and solving social conflicts.

Our Three's children put on a very successful Christmas Concert. They worked very hard on following directions, building their confidence, and memorizing classic Christmas carols. They also learned about different family traditions such as Wigilia (Polish), Elf on the shelf, and baking cookies.

Our Four's children participated in an ugly sweater and gingerbread house decorating day! The children's parents also joined in as we spoke about different family traditions that each child celebrates at home with their families.

Taking a look at January:

Our Infant 1 children will work on a special science experiment by melting snow! The teachers will use descriptive language as they guide the children through this experience. The children will then be encouraged to use their creativity to recreate a melted snowman using a loofa and white paint.

Our Infant 2 children will learn about and be able to identify various animals and the different characteristics that they have. We will introduce the children to the different textures each animal has through touch and feel story books as well as through various art and sensory experiences.

Our Toddler 1 children will go on an adventure to collect snow to explore in our sensory bin. We will be learning about animals that live in the snow, how to stay warm, and cold environments. We will encourage the children's independence as they practice putting on their own hats and mittens.

Our Toddler 2 children will be introduced to our new writing center, where they will start to recognize different letters, the sounds they make, and even how to spell their name. During circle time we will continue to introduce the days of the week and the months to lengthen the children's attention span.

Our Toddler 3 children will be breaking our cabin fever by taking walks outside to explore the wonderful winter season. We will expand their language development as we have conversations using descriptive words. The children will also develop their gross motor skills as we exercise, practice yoga, and dance to music during our music and movement time.

Our Three's children will utilize their senses as they explore winter. They will engage in scientific experiments and learn to problem solve. We will also focus our teacher directed activities on how winter changes our environment as well as the temperature from hot to cold.

Our Four's children will develop their creativity as they participate in various winter activities. The children will expand their cognitive skills as we discuss our solar system and take an in depth look at outer space.



A Note from the Director:

Please remember to walk with caution as our sidewalks may get slippery this time of year. Notify your child's teacher of any slippery walk ways so we can take care of it immediately. We are very excited to announce our center wide winter project! We have created a cat house that we placed next to the red barn to teach the children about empathy this season. We will take campus walks to see if we notice footprints in the snow and ask the children open-ended questions such as "how do you think it feels to have a nice a warm place to go when it's cold?" Please feel free to take a walk past it and continue the lesson of empathy at home. ~Michelle