



December-2009



January 2010

- ❖ December was a joyful month as we learned about the different “Holidays Around the World”. Our talented Mom’s of the Month, **Mrs. Jain** and **Mrs. Riaz**, kept us very busy with fun and creative projects to commemorate many special traditions and symbols from each holiday. We celebrated Christmas, Eid, and Diwali and read books about Hanukkah and Kwanza. The children took great pride in sharing “their” traditional holiday with their classmates.
- ❖ We enjoyed beautiful, individual presentations by Mrs. McDonnell & Mrs. Carattini(Christmas), Mrs. Jain(Diwali), and Mrs. Riaz (Eid). Thank you for taking time to share with the children about why each holiday is so special.



In Art, we did so many fun projects related to our “holiday” theme. For Christmas, the children made beautiful tissue paper wreaths, decorated ornaments, and laced Christmas trees. For Diwali, the children crafted a “Rangoli” pattern with colored sand.



For Eid, they decorated personalized door hangers for their rooms and made a “handprint craft” symbolizing love around the world. Each child did such lovely work personalizing a picture frame as a gift for their parents!



We ended December with our annual Holiday Party. Although severe weather caused us to have to celebrate at our individual locations, each team made lovely, last minute arrangements and we ended the year beautifully with friendship, love, and lots of fun!



Many Special Thanks to...

- The Jain family for the beautiful Diwali and Christmas gifts for all the children.
- All the families who contributed for the Eid gifts for the entire class.
- Mrs. McDonnell, Katie & Kelsey for bringing in special homemade treats for the class.
- Our “Moms of the Month” Mrs. Jain and Mrs. Riaz for making this month so special for the children.

Happy Birthday!!!



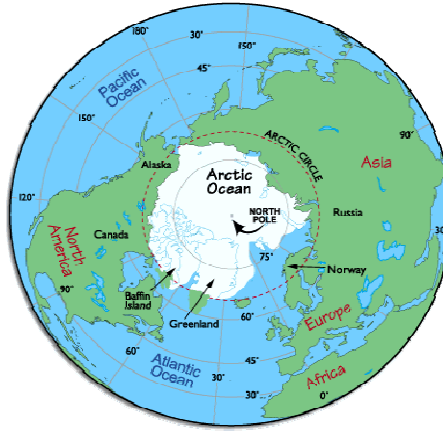
Ariana Vasishta (Pioneers) turned 4



Payton Stainer (Pioneers) turned 5

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May this year bring love, peace, happiness, and prosperity for all!

January was a very busy month as we got settled back into our routines from a wonderful holiday break. Our theme this month was "Arctic Life." Our special theme brought an "Arctic Chill" to the state of Florida. We were able to experience and get a feel for the COLD weather in the Arctic.



The children were thrilled to discover what existed at the "top of the world." We learned the names of the different layers of the Arctic: Ice-cap, Tundra, and Taiga.

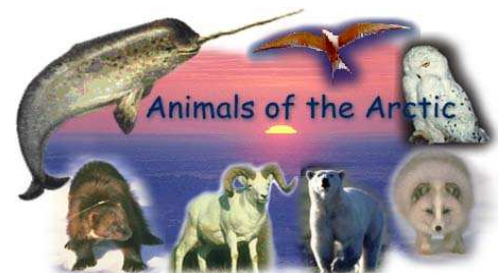
It was also interesting to learn about the Native Alaskan people (Inuits) and how they adapted their homes, travel, and way of life in order to thrive in the harsh conditions of the Arctic.

It was especially exciting to learn about the many Arctic animals. Everyone enjoyed naming and placing each animal in their original habitat and exploring the aspects of hibernation, migration and camouflage. Thank you to **Mrs. Martin** for sharing her beautiful materials, books, and activities that were a part of her Unit Project.

Our Mom's of the Month **Mrs. Hollis, Mrs. Stainer, and Mrs. Steenstra** planned such creative and fun activities like styrofoam cup Polar Bears and a puppet to take home. We also did polar bear lacing, moose punch outs, and flags of Alaska.



February Theme: We will be learning about our Five Senses during the month of February!



Making "blubber" was so awesome! The children got a real "hands-on" experience of how this thick layer of fat protects the Arctic animals from the severe cold.

We studied and read books about our great hero, Dr. Martin Luther King. It is amazing to see his dream realized right here at Growing Minds!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new student Michael Casinga!

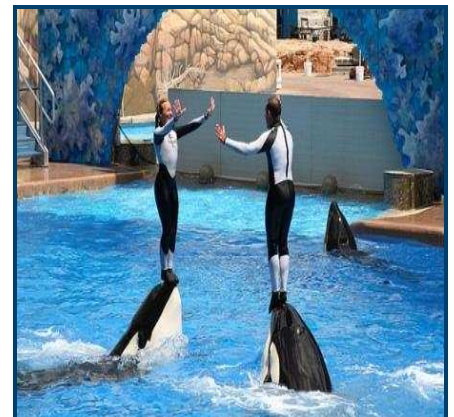


Of course, the highlight of the month was our field trip to **Sea World**. We had a fantastic day seeing the shows and exhibits that really brought the Arctic to life for the children! Thanks to all for making this wonderful field trip so enjoyable

Happy Birthday!



Amil Abdula (Explorers) turned



Taha Riaz (Explorers) turned 6!