



Paradise Valley Cooperative School

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

Volume 7

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Issue 6

Director News

Melanie

Happy New Year to all PVCS families and friends! I want to wish you all prosperity and good health this year and to thank you for making 2009 such a wonderful year for me and the PVCS community! Your thoughtful words and gifts are so appreciated. Thank you to everyone who piled my office with goodies and cards!

FALL 2010: January is always a busy and stressful month for me as I prepare for re-registration and enrollment for the Fall school year. It seems so early, but I ask our teachers to commit for the fall program this month so that I can let you as parents know the plans by February! There will be some changes this year but nothing that should prevent you from making PVCS your continued choice for your children! The fall letter will be out the first week of February and you are asked to return your application by February 21st this year.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR: The extra-curricular classes will all return for the spring session. I've attached the new flier and there are hard-copies available in the lobby! I hope many of you will take advantage of the wonderful programs that we have to offer at 12:00: Yoga will be on Mondays, Spanish on Tuesdays, Dance on Wednesdays and Tumbling on Thursdays. If you have any questions about the programs, please call the name and number on the flier!

Fundraising News

Melanie

In January, we have Family Night Out at Chucky Cheese on Monday, January 11th! And Chucky will even drop by the school to encourage us to come! Details are in your child's mailbox!

Parent's Night Out was a big success in December! I hope more of you will attend on February 13th! Take your sweetie out for a special treat while the kids are safe and comfortable at school! Also, the Art By Me Fundraiser brought in a total of about \$500! Thanks to all our children for making such wonderful art for us to purchase! I hope your families enjoyed the special gifts. I know mine did!

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 4:** Return to school!
- January 8:** Teacher Dulce B-day
- January 11:** CHUCKY CHEESE FAMILY NIGHT!!
- January 14:** Staff Meeting 1pm
- January 18:** NO SCHOOL MLK Holiday
Teacher Terry B-day
- January 19:** Parent Meeting 12:00
T/Th Twos & Threes
- January 20:** Parent Meeting 12:00
MWF Threes and PT Fours
Parent Meeting 5:00
Full-time Parents
- January 23:** CLEANING DAY 9am-12pm
- February 13:** Parent's Night Out!!

Room 1 (TWOS) News

Lynda & Jennifer

Happy New Year to our families! We hope that everyone had a safe holiday and enjoyed the two week break. Last month, we focused primarily on getting ready for Christmas, so the kids were busy with arts and crafts projects. Time flew by and we finished off the year with snow play, a classroom party, and our annual holiday dinner & program! Thank you to all of our families for the thoughtful gifts, assorted sweets and treats, and lovely Christmas cards.

As we welcome 2010, we will take some time to get back to our classroom routines and being with our friends after two weeks off from school.

Cognitive: We will continue with some activities that use our sense of hearing. We'll make different noise makers with rice, beans, and pasta, and try to match the sounds. We'll use our mitten matching game to work on number recognition and counting. We'll also talk about winter and have some freezing & melting activities.

Social / Emotional: As part of getting back together with our friends, we'll practice social scripts that encourage manners; saying "please" and "thank you", so we can communicate with our inside voices. We'll discuss different feelings and give words to describe how we feel ("I am glad", "I am frustrated", "I am angry")

Language / Literacy: We'll work on name recognition and identifying the letters in our names. There will be more labels in the classroom to make it "environment print rich." Also this month, we'll start collecting clean, empty food containers (cereal boxes, dry goods items like macaroni and cheese) for our "grocery store".

Physical: Gross: This month, we'll introduce the children to the big playground and plan to be there on Thursdays for our outdoor time. There is more open space for running around, riding the bicycles with friends, and climbing up and down on new playground equipment.

Fine: We'll do more lacing activities for hand-eye coordination. We'll also have scissors available to cut and make paper strips that can be glued together into paper chains.

We missed our little ones and look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Room 2 (FOURS) News

Terry & Kristen

Happy New Year!! We hope you all enjoyed your holidays and time off together. Terry and I both got to spend part of our vacation time with our families in Colorado and California.

This month we will focus on the season of Winter, Manners, Writing and Patterns. Here is a look into some of our activities:

Cognitive: We will be learning about winter and what it is like in different parts of Arizona as well as the rest of the world. We'll read about what animals do during the winter as well as traditions during this

time of year. In math we will reintroduce patterns and try to expand on the different types of patterns the children can copy and create. In science, we'll have fun with pretend snow, ice experiments and ooblick...how fun!! We may even try to make an igloo out of the loft. ☺

Language/Literacy: We will stock our classroom library full of books about winter and animals and introduce vocabulary associated with this time of year. We are going to write at least one class book together and possibly start publishing the children's individual stories as well. Journals will be available on a daily basis as well as name writing activities.

Social/Emotional: Right before the holiday break we had really started working on expectations during circle time and group activities as well as manners. We will continue to work on those during January with an emphasis on manners. Conflict resolution is used as the basis for communication and solving problems in the classroom so we will also enhance those skills as well.

Physical: We are going to offer lots of tracing and cutting activities this month including cutting out patterns. In the writing center we will also be doing name writing activities and story writing. Walking the balance beam will increase our balance and running some relay races outside will work on team building and gross motor skills.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone!

Room 3 (TWOS) News

Dulce

We had so much fun with the Christmas activities and songs. I would like to thank all of the parents for helping make the holiday season special. And thank you for your kind cards and gifts as well.

Cognitive: This month we will be focusing on safety, what makes us special, winter, and our friends. When we work on "about me" activities we will have the students focus on vocabulary words to describe themselves and their friends. We will also discuss how we have to respect each other and their feelings. Some of our art activities this month will involve how we treat and appreciate our friends.

Social/Emotional: Following the Christmas season of sharing, this month we will be working on activities focusing on respecting our friends. We are learning empathy toward our friends and also how each person is unique and special.

Language and Literacy: Our main stories will focus on friendship and also Martin Luther King Jr. We normally start the first week with a fun book and repeat that book, among others, throughout the month. If you would like to see the books that we are using please feel free to ask me and I would be happy to give you a list. The school library has so many books which you are welcome to check out. I also recently found www.bookswim.com which has a great

book rental system.

Physical: For gross motor skills, we will continue to have the castle in the room for a couple more weeks as this has been a huge hit for the kids and a great way to get some physical exercise in while spending time indoors. As always, we will continue our dancing and singing in the classroom as we learn fun new songs to keep us moving. We are starting to enjoy using scissors in the writing center. This is a great way to increase our fine motor skills so I will encourage this along with beading and lacing activities this month.

Parents: The Christmas celebration was a great success and I would like to thank all of the parents for coming in and helping. It's always great to get together. I thought that the children all did very well with their Christmas song! These parties are a great addition to building a sense of community in the classroom and without your help this wouldn't be possible.

Room 4 (THREES) News Debbi, Erin & Jana

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and very happy New Year. I enjoyed some time off and spent it with my family, and I know Teacher Debbi did the same. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2010! Thank you all for your lovely Christmas gifts and treats. We feel so blessed to work at such a fantastic school with such loving parents, children, and staff!

In January we will begin the month re-establishing rules and routines after the long break, start learning a new clean up routine, and enjoy getting back into our normal schedule. We have new friends that joined us: Mercer and Roidon. They make our class up to 14 on Thursdays! With that being said, Teacher Debbi and I will be working together on Thursdays. We are very excited and are looking forward to it!

Cognitive (Math/Science): The children have made great progress with their patterning skills and shape recognition. This month we will continue to work on one-to-one correspondence and number recognition starting with numbers 1-5. The children still love the calendar part of circle time where we count, work on the days of the week, and patterning. In Science/Sensory table we are starting off the month with snow (pretend snow). The children can scoop, measure and pour into different size containers.

Language/Literacy: We introduced some new games called Name Bingo and Blind Pick in December, both of which will work on letter recognition. We will begin focusing on the letters in our names and writing our names. Remember any attempt at name writing (even if it is scribbles and your child says, "That's my name!") is a step in the right direction. On Thursdays, when we have two teachers in the classroom, we hope to work on story dictation from the children. This will include children dictating to us what they have written or drawn, as well as creating class books.

Social/Emotional: With the holidays behind us, we will re-visit classroom rules, "using our words" and taking turns. The children have formed some great friendships in the

classroom. We continue to talk about including friends in games, as well as recognizing when someone may need some alone time.

Physical (Fine/Gross): The children are crazy about cutting! This is a skill we have reinforced throughout the last few months. We will continue to cut a lot of paper, and attempt cutting straight lines, curvy lines, and zigzag lines. We have new shovels, buckets and balls to play with outside. And Teacher Terry fixed all our bikes so they are up and running for the children to exercise their legs!

As a reminder to parents, please check your child's mailbox/cubby for daily artwork or important paper work. In addition to our Sunday email updates, we will be posting upcoming information and/or important events on our classroom door.

Room 5 (INFANTS) News Citha

Wow I can't believe that it is already Jan of 2010, where has the time gone? December was a great month. I just love Christmas!

For the month of January we will continue to work on some of the same things that we've been doing. The babies are doing very well on their physical movements & becoming aware of their surroundings and new people. We will be going outside a little more to get used to that environment! The babies just love it, so please bundle up! Send extra socks!! We will also continue to work on our verbal skills.

It is a great joy to see the development of our little ones. I can't wait to see what they do next.

Room 6 (TODDLERS) News Lama

Let me first wish every one of you a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. Last month went great with all our holiday preparations.

To start off the New Year, I am planning to talk about different animals; what they eat, where they live, what they look like, and one thing special about them. The kids are enjoying dressing up and pretending to be different types of people therefore we are going to focus a little more on dress up. Also I noticed that the kids are interested in numbers, so we will focus more on counting and saying numbers. In addition, we will be working on activities such as knocking nails with hammers. Lastly, this month in science, we will be talking about what's heavy and light, by having the kids compare different heavy and light objects and using a scale.

I'm excited to talk about new information with your kids and I know they are going to be excited to learn.

Room 7 (THREES) News Paula, Debbie & Lisa

December was a fast and fun-filled month. We learned about different holidays/traditions and had fun doing lots of gingerbread activities. Our students put so much time and effort into making all their gifts and cards for their families and they were very excited to take them home! Both classes did lots of counting practice the whole month long. We also gave students a name folder, which was (and will continue to be) available to them in the writing center to trace, copy, and practice writing their name.

During January, our underlying theme will be winter. We will continue working with our numbers and patterns as well as expand on our name recognition and writing skills. Here is a look at what we have planned for January:

Cognitive (math/science/thinking): This month, our math focus will be on counting and patterns. Last month we introduced the "AB" pattern to the children and this month we will try an "ABC" pattern. Learning patterns and predicting what will come next is an important math skill and the basis for learning new concepts. We will still include games and toys that focus on counting and numbers, as well as incorporating counting into circle time activities. We will use visual (looking at and identifying numbers) and hands-on counting, as tools for teaching the different concepts of abstract and concrete numbers. In science, we are excited to try some new experiments all dealing with ice and water in connection with our winter theme.

Language/Literacy: We will be reading books and charting information about winter season and related activities. Since winters in Arizona are generally mild, we will be charting and making observations about winters in other areas when we read about them and about what animals do during winter. The children will also increase their vocabulary while learning about winter. This month, we want to expand on name recognition skills and encourage the children to do name writing on art projects and in other center's activities.

Social Emotional: Since we have been on a long break, we will start out the month with reminders of our classroom rules and expectations. Some of the students have gotten very good at communicating their needs and also resolving conflicts. We will continue to encourage using words to help solve problems and getting their needs met. Since we have incorporated many different activities into circle time, it is important for the kids to learn what the expectations are during that time and what they should do if they want a turn to speak, etc. So, we will focus on how to wait turns to talk and to raise our hands when we want a turn. We will also start a "show and share" time this month, additional information will be sent home with the details before we begin.

Physical: The kids have been practicing to pump their legs on the swings over the past few months. Several children can now completely swing by themselves! What an accomplishment!!! This month we will work on balance, jumping, and hopping. Our writing activities will give the children lots of fine motor practice.

We want to thank all our parents who volunteered during December, both for your co-op days as well as the extra time and effort you put into helping with our classroom projects. You made our holiday parties extra special and we know the children loved having you there. Thank you also for all your wonderful gifts and cards – we truly appreciate them and you!!!