



Windmill Creek Academy Gazette

Volume 9

Issue 6

February 2017

Letter from the Director

January was such an exciting month! The children enjoyed discovering all things “Winter,” -- ice and snow, snow-angels, snowmen, polar animals, and a week of “school spirit” thrown in for fun! Our “Giraffe” students even enjoyed a field trip to Germain Arena to go ice skating! Thank you to the many parents who helped chaperone this exciting field trip.

February promises to be an exciting month as well. Since February is the month of “love,” we’ll focus on friendship, gentleness, honesty and integrity – culminating in our annual Valentine’s Day Exchange on Friday, February 10th. The students will also learn about some of our Presidents, Black History, Colors & Shapes and we’ll end the month celebrating the books of Dr. Seuss. Green Eggs and Ham, anyone?! The Frog and Giraffe students will also get a visit from the “Tooth Fairy” in the middle of the month. WCA will be hosting a free Vision & Hearing Screening for all 3-5 year olds. Stay tuned for more information the week before the screening which is scheduled on February 22. Finally, we wanted to say how proud we are of our past students! Three out of five Kindergarten classes at Poinciana Elementary had Windmill Creek Graduates singled out as their “TOP READERS!” What an amazing testament to our wonderful teachers, students and WCA families! WCA graduates are AWESOME! :)

Here are a few important reminders and dates to remember:

Valentine’s Day Exchange

On Friday, February 10th, we’ll have our annual Valentine’s Day Card Exchange. Please see your child’s classroom teachers for a list of the students’ names and to sign up for party treats.

Presidents’ Day

We will be closed on Monday, February 20th in observance of the Presidents’ Day national holiday.

Visit from the “Tooth Fairy” on February 15

The Frogs and Giraffes will get a visit from the “Tooth Fairy” on Wednesday, February 15th at 9:45 am. They will be given a presentation on oral hygiene.

Vision & Hearing Screening on February 22

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida will be visiting the school to provide a free “Vision & Hearing” screening for all 3-5 year olds. Permission slips will be available in your child’s classroom.

Cubbies/Daily Sheets, etc.

Please do not forget to pick up your child’s daily sheet at the end of each day as well as any artwork, special notes, etc. On Fridays, please take home your child’s blanket to launder and then return it to your child’s cubby on Monday morning. If you could please make sure the blanket is returned to your child’s *cubby* (not just in a backpack), we would be much obliged.

Label, Label, Label

Please remember to label all your children’s items (sippy cups,

blankets, jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.) with their first and last name (or initial) with a black, permanent marker. Thank you in advance

We hope you have a wonderful February and enjoy the nearly perfect weather that is the envy of the entire nation! We are so blessed to live in Naples – especially this time of year.

Fondly,

Janine

Janine Connell
Founder & Director
Windmill Creek Academy



Lucas and his Mom enjoy the Giraffe’s Ice Skating Field Trip at Germain Arena



February’s Character Training Values

Love ... Gentleness & Empathy
Honesty ... Integrity & Truthfulness



Windmill Creek Academy Classroom Updates

Bunnies

The Bunnies welcomed 2017 and some chilly weather in the month of January! The Bunnies will have their first Valentine's Day – exchanging cards of love and friendship! Our Bunnies are growing up so quickly! We have three or four new Bunnies joining the patch in February and March ... and lots of birthdays to celebrate! Adele is transitioning to the Cubs! She is walking and is such a happy, alert and confident bunny! Ruth will be moving up soon, too as she recently had a birthday! She is eating pick-up food and crawling all over. She loves to talk and is a very curious child – exploring everything around her. Drew is crawling all over the room and he's standing up already! He will soon crawl over to the Cubs! Another February birthday, Grant is bustling with activity. He is crawling and standing up. He enjoys pick-up food! Our younger bunnies are not to be outdone – as they are learning and growing just as quickly! Frances is eating baby food and rice cereal. She is turning around on her tummy and loves to observe her classmates crawl all over! Sarah is sitting up, loves floor play with toys and is quite vocal! We would like to welcome Riley to the class – so sweet and serene! It's great to be a Bunny!
Ms. Astrid, Ms. Iris, Ms. Lindsey & Ms. Lesley

Cubs

In the month of January, it was all about the cold weather. We got a real feel of winter. We learned about snow and what "cold" feels like. We were in for a bit of a shock when we felt ice since we are so used to warmth. We played with some ice and saw how it melted. We all thought it was fascinating! We even painted igloos! We learned about Black History month and that everyone is equal and we are all friends! This month's main theme was about puddles, rain and mud. We saw colorful rain in a bowl of water topped with shaving cream as clouds! We had a lot of fun during Spirit Week – pajama day was definitely a favorite. We all rooted for our favorite teams for sports day and read up on some super fun super heroes! Two awesome friends have joined us – Jayce is fitting in wonderfully and Jaxson is working on walking already! We're so happy for our new friends! Soon we will all be getting our chocolates and love poems ready for Valentine's Day! As the month progresses, we will be learning about colors and shapes and end the month with some Dr. Seuss rhymes as we celebrate his birthday! We are some awesome Cubs!
Ms. Donna, Ms. Haven & Ms. Jenny

Bears

The Bears had so much fun learning about ice! We did an ice cream project and explored sensory play using ice which helped the Bears learn and use describing words by enhancing their language development. We also celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day! We took the opportunity to explore concepts such as kindness, peace, acceptance and caring about others. We painted a hand along with a poem by Martin Luther King Jr. and used different colors. During Spirit Week, we took lots of pictures to show our parents how much fun we had dressing up and being creative with our friends. To wrap up January, we learned about African American history. We played baseball outside to learn about Jackie Robinson. We also talked about planting seeds, vegetables and fruits to learn about George Washington Carver. We did lots of "hands on" activities to understand the concepts. For the month of February, we will celebrate Valentine's Day by learning how to share and care for people you love. We will be creating fun arts and crafts – all the while learning shapes, colors and developing our fine motor skills. For Presidents' Day, we will learn new vocabulary such as "voting, White House and flag," etc. Finally, we will be reviewing colors and shapes along with reading a lot of Dr. Seuss books as we celebrate his birthday at the end of

February. We would like to welcome Makayla, Kymi and Reid to the Bears' class!

Ms. Astrid, Ms. Kayla, Ms. Kellie, Ms. Rachel & Ms. Sofie

Frogs

In the month of January we began learning about snow and ice – which was interesting to explain and discuss to the children who have never experienced it! :) We water-colored our own snowflakes and discussed that not two snowflakes are exactly identical. Ms. Lena brought in artificial snowballs that had the same texture and "feel" as real snowballs. The students had a mock snowball fight – a great time was had by all! Next we learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and how he wanted all people to be equal no matter what the color of their skin; and for all of us to live in peace. The Frogs water colored and painted hands about MLK's "My Own Two Hands" speech. We celebrated "School Spirit" week – it was both crazy and fun and the Frogs loved the idea of coming to school wearing their pajamas! Sporting their favorite sports team was also a hit! The highlight of the week was "Super Hero Day" which the Frog students enjoyed the most. We welcomed Noah to our class who is so excited to be a Frog now! In February, we look forward to learning about African American History, Ground Hog Day, Presidents' Week and all about being a good friend for Valentine's Day. We continue to review colors and shapes and ... we will top off the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss and his Birthday! "Oh ... how much we can learn!"

Ms. Carina, Ms. Emily, Ms. Lena, Ms. Lesley & Ms. Pat

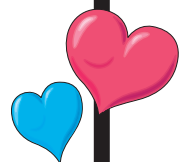
Giraffes

January went by so fast! The Giraffes had so much fun. In art we loved making and playing with "snow," and painting snowmen with "snow" paint. MLK Week, we made posters and bright color peace signs. Spirit Week was a blast as we made a picture collage each day. We ended the month painting with ice! In February we will learn about Black History and create a peanut butter man to inspire learning about George Washington Carver. Groundhog day is coming and that means we will be making special groundhogs. We look forward to Valentine's Day and making all kinds of neat valentines crafts. The children will be making their own Valentine's box to store all their valentines' goodies. We are in need of shoe boxes please!) :) The Giraffes continue making the letter of the week crafts "S" into snakes, "T" into trucks, "U" into Umbrella and "V" into vase. The Giraffes had such a great time on our field trip ice skating at Germain Arena! It was great to see them all have enough courage to try! Skating can be harder than it looks and the students were very brave and curious to give it a whirl! Thanks to all of our parent volunteers – it would not have been possible without you! This February we will learn about Black History, Groundhog's Day and, of course, we will celebrate Valentine's Day with a class party. We will continue working our way through the alphabet and learning to count and write our numbers to 20 and count to 30. We finished our mid-year VPK assessments. It is such an inspiration to see how much the students have learned!

Ms. Ally, Ms. Kristen, Ms. Krystal, Ms. Nini & Ms. Sammy

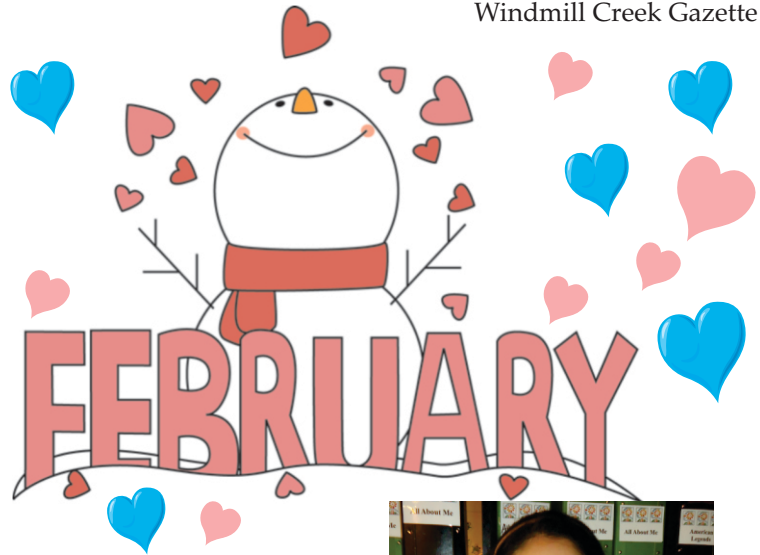
February Birthdays

Logan P - February 2
Jasmine L - February 2
Laura P - February 10
Jeremiah D - February 15
Ms. Carina - February 16
Ms. Rachel - February 18
Grant G - February 23
Penny B - February 25
Daisy B - February 27





Jody, Sadie, Logan, Jeremiah, Lucas, Ayvah, Abigail, Jonathan and Jazzy pose on the red bus



Ms. Lesley February's Teacher of the Month!



Ms. Lesley is February's Teacher of the Month! "Team Player," "Professional and Caring," "Can-do Attitude," are all great words to describe Ms. Lesley. Lesley is one of those teachers that can float in and out of a classroom and know exactly where help is required, which child needs an extra hug when they are having a rough day, and add her infectious laugh to bring joy to a classroom. Lesley is taking college courses and works full time - a testament to her professionalism and self-discipline. Thank you, Ms. Lesley, for being such a wonderful, reliable and AWESOME teacher here at Windmill Creek Academy!



Peyton, Jacob and Ethan take a spin on the tire swing



Patrick sets up camp on the playground



Penny, Liam and Mary enjoy some table top activities in the great outdoors

