

Dear parents

We would like to welcome the second semester of this school year 2013-2014, and hope that you enjoyed the winter break. We would like to tell you some of the activities that we have been doing this month as they related to our theme of winter.

The students and teachers enjoyed being back at the school and catching up with what we did during the break. Children drew pictures about their activities during those two weeks. We also enjoyed meeting our new students and we can say that they are making nice friendships.

Hibernation was a very interesting topic to learn about. We talked about how we manage this weather and how people and some animals adapt to it, migrate or hibernate. During these classes one of the activities was to recreate a cave in which students and teachers got inside and had the class there, this was really fun. Also some of us pretended to be bears and other students decided they wanted to be bats (which also hibernate, we had to eat first to be ready to hibernate).

The pre-school class wrote the letter H of hibernation and the kindergarten class sorted the animals in the three different categories the ones that hibernate, migrate and adapt.

Sometimes we just need to follow their lead even when is in other direction to see . For example, while we were talking about the different animals, Maestra Ana was showing a stuffed rabbit and a stuffed duck, one of the students made the observation that the duck doesn't show its ears as she was comparing it with the rabbit. It was really funny for all of them when Maestra Ana was moving the stuffed rabbit because its ears covered its eyes.

Another fun activity was to use cotton to pretend that it was snowflakes; children enjoyed throwing it in the air and playing with it. We talked about important facts of bears, penguins and wolfs and saw some real pictures of them, they loved to watch the penguin pictures.

Children were very curious about who took the pictures and how we got them too.

By the last week of January we made some experiments and we heard very good comments from the children saying that they liked them. To mention some, we put some water in a bowl with leaves and a string outside and the next class it was a beautiful ice ornament. Also we took some snow inside and asked what would happen and some of the comments were "it is going to shrink" "it will melt" "...and become milk", then they realized it was just water presented in a different form.

Another day with the Early Drop Off students, we had a quite interesting conversation; while we were seeing snowing through the window, one of them asked "why the snow falls in all directions?", another said in Spanish "yo creo que yo se, porque el viento" and then a third one said " si, el viento sopla en todos los lugares y la nieve cae en todos lugares" we were amazed by the reflection and of course the Spanish conversation because of the bilingual conversation.

Kindergarten students have been spelling words with letter N and D. By the way, they have expressed how much they like to work on Math exercises. Maestra Sylvia has been putting forth effort to keep the students on track after all these calamity days. You may have noticed Maestra Patricia is here every Monday to help us focus on each level. We also want to let you know that we are considering having makeup classes for this reason. We will let you know the details later.

Vocabulary

Copo de nieve-snowflakes
Nieve- snow
Invierno-winter
Oso-bear
Lobo-wolf
Murcielago-bat
Pingüino-pinguine
Congelado-frozen
Hibernacion-hibernation
Hielo-ice

Math

Calendar
Weather
Counting

Science

Ice and snow
experiments