



KTK

News of the Day



DECEMBER
2016

Notes from Our Feathered Friends

Baby Chicks: The baby chicks are adjusting to the cooler weather that is upon us. We had lots of fun doing several fall and Thanksgiving activities such as painting turkeys, pumpkins and Indian corn – all with our feet! We also did some painting with pinecones. These are both fun ways to learn different motor skills. The Thanksgiving feast was a great time meet all the families, talk and get to know everyone a little more. You will all notice some new activities on the wall, with the seasons changing and the holidays coming. The babies continue to work on several different skills throughout the day. Some are working on rolling and sitting, and others are working on holding heads up during tummy time. We have a new friend, Nell, who just joined the group; she is fitting in great!

Penguins: We have had such a wonderful fall, which enabled us to get out and play quite a bit. We love to play on the back deck. We said good bye to Camille as she embarks on her new adventures as a Parrot. We will miss her and are always available for snuggles at the gate. We have a room full of walkers and furniture creepers – some are even standing up on their own. Their skills are improving and they are mastering their talents; come in and see our busy room! We have so much fun and adventure each and every day.

Parrots: Kudos to the Parrot parents for doing a stellar job of making sure we have what we need to stay warm when playing outside. As a reminder, we go outside when the temperature (with wind chill) is above 20. Our highlights from November include experimenting with leaves and a few fun turkey projects. December is one of our favorite times of the year, as we celebrate the holidays and being together with our families. We will, of course, explore the Christmas traditions that we celebrate as well as those enjoyed around the world. We will also look at holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. If your family has any special holiday tradi-

tions, please let us know. We would love to include those in our holiday discussions too. In addition, we are looking forward to some snow exploration and welcoming Camille to our room, who has graduated from the Penguins.



Peacocks: In the month of December, the Peacocks will focus on two main topics: winter and good behaviors. We have been having a lot of fun discussing the all the great activities surrounding fall, and now we can't wait to begin talking about all the fun surrounding winter. We'll cover topics such as Frosty the Snowman, different winter celebrations across cultures, and winter weather. We'll also be doing many winter-themed sensory activities that use snow and ice! In addition to our fun winter activities, we'll be working on identifying and using good behaviors. We will be focusing on how to be great friends to one another and using words to express ourselves.

Starlings: The progress the Starlings have made over this year is incredible. They amaze us every day! In the near future we will be sending home a survey, asking for feedback on routines and activities in our class, ideas of topics that would interest your child, activities you would like to participate in with our class, and more. Teacher in-service day is coming up in January, giving us a chance to plan what to work on or change – your thoughts are appreciated and inspiring. November was very memorable. We got to know Ms. Abbey better, did some science experiments, added an art room, made stone soup, gained and lost pets, ran an obstacle course, had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner with you, and so much more. During the month of December, the Starlings will be exploring entertainment, storytelling, music & dancing, holidays, and car racing – they've been asking for the last one for a long time. As always, if any of you have expertise in anything we are working on, please share with us! We truly appreciate the time you volunteer, your visits and donations, and the support you give us all.

A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful thanksgiving dinner we had! Jessica once again did an amazing job of preparing food for everyone. Thank you to all of you who attended and brought a dessert! My hope is that you were able to chat with other parents and get to know the teachers a little bit better too. Our next family gathering will be in February, so stay tuned for more info.

There are many different holidays and traditions being celebrated around this time of year – Our teachers would love to include yours into their classrooms. If you would like to share some of your traditions with the children, please see your child's teacher to get something coordinated.

Because winter weather is inevitably going to hit us, I would like to remind everyone that KTK closes whenever the Madison school district closes. An email will be sent to everyone in the event that this should happen, but please watch local news stations and websites for notice also. I hope everyone has a great holiday season!!

Amanda Johnson
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Out of the Mouths of Babes

A teacher was telling the kids about a song and said she could try Pandora. A preschooler said, "Pandora? I don't even know her."

"I was 3 ½ when I was growing up."

"When I was one I wasn't born yet."

Upcoming Events

Dec. 3-31: Olbrich Garden's Holiday Express (open daily 10 am – 4 pm)
Holiday Fantasy in Lights – Olin Park
Zoo Lights at Vilas Zoo (Thur. – Sun.)

Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day

Dec. 12: Parent – Teacher Conferences

Dec. 21: Winter begins

Dec. 23: **KTK CLOSED**

Dec. 24: Hanukkah begins

Dec. 25: Christmas Day

Dec. 26: **KTK CLOSED**

Dec. 26: Kwanzaa begins

Dec. 30: **KTK CLOSED**



December Birthdays

Dec. 17: Nya



Creating Holiday Memories

By Dora Fowler

Several years ago, our daughter arrived home from college in time for the holidays. The year before she had commented on how her friend's parents did not put out "old" decorations but rather decorated their home with new, "in style" decorations. Thinking that our adult children had outgrown our traditions, I did not put out any of the old, slightly beat-up decorations that had been part of our holiday celebrations since the children were babies. Goodness did I make a mistake!

After a terse announcement that none of our holiday things were out as they should have been, our daughter proceeded to the crawl space where she dragged out every box, every light, every beat-up piece of memorabilia that had ever adorned our home for the holidays. These decorations include a Santa made out of a Styrofoam cup by our youngest child 15 years before while in kindergarten; ornaments made out of string by our oldest son; and an angel fashioned out of an issue of Reader's Digest and sprayed gold by our daughter when she was in first grade. Of such meaningful bits and pieces are holiday memories made!

Holiday memories bind families together. Memories include the things we do together, the stories we read, and the songs we sing and can be strengthened by bringing out and displaying the same memorabilia made by our children, year after year.

It is my contention that advertisers want adults to believe that the more money they spend buying expensive toys for their children, the happier the holidays and the memories will be. This is not the case. Children need the sense of comfort provided by the structure in their lives. Establishing holiday traditions gives children this sense of structure. So, how do you build holiday memories?

- **Bake holiday cookies.** If you don't have time to bake from scratch, buy a couple of tubes of refrigerated cookie dough. Let the children use holiday cookie cutters and decorate the cookies with colored sugar, candies, and icing.
- **Turn off the TV and sing special songs.** Repeat the words and melodies over and over so that the children learn them.

- **Make holiday ornaments.** Buy inexpensive ornament balls and write the name of each child and the year in white glue. Then sprinkle with glitter. When the glue dries the glitter will become an integral part of the glass ball.
- **Allow children to help with the preparation of the big meal.** Help your children set the table, make Jell-O, or line the breadbasket with a napkin before setting out the rolls. What is important is that the child feels that he is part of the meal preparation.
- **Help your children make presents for one another rather than buying them.** Rocks decorated with flowers and wall hangings made out of burlap make very special gifts. Visit your local library or look through magazines for other simple gifts children can make.

Dora Fowler is founder of the National Institute of Child Care Management and the National Association of Child Care Professionals.



Happy Holidays!



News from the Kitchen

Thank you to all the families that made it to our Thanksgiving dinner last month. Thanks for bringing in all those delicious pies, milk and rolls. It was greatly appreciated!

It's that time of the year again when there are lots of get-togethers with family, friends and coworkers to celebrate the holidays. There are often many delicious treats around, and it is very easy to snack on cookies, pies or candy canes! It's hard to remember to eat healthy with all this deliciousness everywhere you look.

Here are a few healthy and cute options for treats you could take to parties or family gatherings during this festive time. The best part about these treats is that they are super simple, and you can get the kiddos to help assemble them. You'll be keeping the kids busy and entertained while getting things done – what's better than that?!

All you need to make this fruit candy cane is a banana and some strawberries. Just slice them and arrange on a plate.

All you need to make these fruit Santa hats are grapes, banana slices, strawberries, mini marshmallows and toothpicks. Slice the bananas, cut the tops of the strawberries, and assemble everything on the toothpick.



**Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year!**