

## From the Director



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**WE LOVE OUR FAMILIES!** During this month of love we wanted to let you know how much we love and appreciate your support of our staff and our program. You all took a chance and sent your precious children to us during a pandemic! It has been a wonderful journey because of your thoughtful careful attention. Thank you for taking a chance and helping us make it work. Our hearts are filled with gratitude.

Our classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day in their classrooms. Look for emails from your teachers with more information.

As you know we are registering students for the 2022-2023 school. Thank you for your replies about next year. We appreciate your help. If you have friends or neighbors who are interested in our preschool, please let them know they can register beginning February 15th by sending us an inquiry under the "Link to Register" tab on our web site- [preschool.standrews.net](http://preschool.standrews.net).

Our days are filled with joy as we watch your children grow and learn. I love to hear their questions and watch them take in the world. Our students are so curious and observant which are two great attributes of a lifelong learner.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Warm regards,  
Tami



## Save the Date!!

- Friday, February 11th: Kitten & Frog Classes
- Monday, February 14th: Puppy, Fish, Penguin & Lion Classes
- Tuesday, February 15th: Registration opens to the community
- Monday, February 21st: President's Day, Student Holiday



## The Puppy and Kitten Class



Wishing all of you a very Happy and Healthy New Year! We began January talking about Winter in the Puppy and Kitten class. We certainly have had our share of winter weather!

Our sensory table was a winter wonderland with glitter salt, glittery snowflakes, Styrofoam snowballs, shiny gems, pretend ice cubes, along with penguins and arctic animals. We spent time talking, singing and learning about snow in our classroom. We discussed how water "freezes" to form ice and "melts" back into a liquid water. We sang a fun song that the children loved, called "Once There Was a Snowman". They really enjoyed the motions, starting as a tall snowman and then melting to a puddle at the very end of the song!

The children enjoyed making a variety of winter themed art projects this month. We made sparkly winter pictures with white and blue paint, glitter and salt. The Puppy class enjoyed making snowmen out of paper plates and gluing cotton balls, while the Kitten class enjoyed decorating snowflake shapes with gems.

We have also been learning about transportation. We enjoyed making hot air balloons and we will also be creating our own vehicles by gluing different shapes to make the vehicles. We continue practicing cutting with scissors. Our sensory bin has changed to sand and gravel with number rocks, gems and construction vehicles.

Most of the activities we do in the Puppy and Kitten class are centered around imaginative play and social/emotional development. For physical and cognitive skill development, we plan activities to help develop the children's gross and fine motor skills, hand/eye coordination, and hand strength. Here are a few examples from this month.

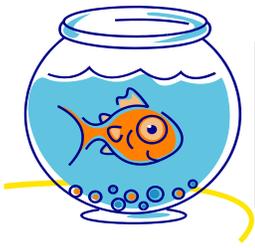
**Gross motor:** During indoor playground: riding scooters and walking across stepping stones. In music class: stomping, hopping, and jumping.

**Fine motor:** Picking up small items to glue onto craft projects, sorting jewels in the sensory bin, building with magnetic blocks, drawing and learning how to cut using scissors.

**Hand strength:** Squeezing glue out of the bottle, rolling balls of playdough, and using our dough tools.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with our classmates on February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Kitten Class and on February 14<sup>th</sup> in the Puppy Class. More information will be sent out. Towards the end of February, we will be learning about Community Helpers.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kroeger and Mrs. Stites



## The Fish and Frog Class



The first two weeks in January we "dove" into our unit about Winter, Polar/Woodland Animals, and Snowmen. There are so many signs of Winter in our classroom. The Frog class made snowflakes for our windows while the Fish class created their very own snowmen with their names on them. Both classes used their fine motor skills for these projects.

We learned that many polar and woodland animals have white fur to "camouflage" into their wintry environment. We discussed arctic animals and hibernation. We discussed which animals hibernate and which animals migrate. Both classes created beautiful winter scenes and the kids learned how to create icicle paintings with glue and shimmering dust.

In the Dramatic play area, the kids created their very own hot cocoa stand, ice fishing, camping, snow plowing, and built their own igloos with snowman cups. We played penguin games and finally, we learned all about the "The Unicorn of the Sea" the Narwhal. In addition, the Fish class officially learned half of the alphabet and each letter's accompanying sound(s) while the Frog class has been busy practicing spelling their names. Both classes continue to impress us with their knowledge and excitement for learning.

For the first two weeks of February, we planned and executed Valentine's art, read books about love and friendship, made cards and bracelets for family members, and decorated take-home goodie bags. On that note, please feel free to send in Valentine cards, pencils, erasers, or candy. The Frog class will have their party with a very special treat, on Feb. 11th and the Fish class, on February 14th.

In the last two weeks of February, we will study Transportation. We will have train sets and other forms of transportation to use in the block and dramatic play areas. The children will create clothespin airplanes, construction paper hot-air balloons, and paint their names with Matchbox cars. We will also read many different types of transportation books and discuss different forms of transportation we have used and would like to use one day.

We have such awesome kids and parents. We so appreciate you letting us spend time with your children. Thank you for all your support!

Warmly,  
Lisa and Nandita



## The Penguin Class



We hope you all have had a great start to the New Year as we have at preschool. During the month of January, the Penguins have been learning about winter and transportation. We have spent time making mittens, snowmen, penguins, traffic lights, cars with letters of our names, and vehicles with shapes. In doing these art projects we have practiced cutting, writing our names, and gluing small pieces of paper. These are all wonderful ways to strengthen our hands and improve our fine motor skills. We've also enjoyed setting up the rooms in a large doll house, and playing with a train table and car rug with lots of fun vehicles. Reading many wonderful books related to winter and transportation has also been a highlight.

Our class has spent time this month working on letter recognition by playing with letter bean bags and through some of our games and art projects. We've also worked specifically on the letters "G", "S", "J", and "D". The children practiced writing the letters on slates. They really enjoyed playing "What's Missing" using objects that begin with the letter we were working on. A song we've been singing reminds us to start our letters at the top. The song is called "Where do we start our letters? At the top!" If you're lucky, your child might just sing it for you.

We've been practicing the Pledge of Allegiance since we came back in January. There are a lot of big words to learn! We've talked about the meaning of the pledge as well as learning to say it. We will practice this every day the rest of the school year during our morning jobs.

In January we talked about our first names and our last names. To practice learning our last names, sometimes we call the children Mr. "last name" or Miss "last name". The children really enjoy this and it helps them remember their full names.

In February we began our unit about family love and Valentine's Day. This is a wonderful time to work on our writing skills. The children will practice writing notes to friends and family. We are also getting ready to mail our "hugs" to relatives of your choosing and look forward to receiving mail back to be read in class.

The Penguins will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Monday, Feb. 14. Thank you for signing up to bring special snack items that day. We will be exchanging Valentines with our classmates on Feb. 14.

Thank you for your support!

Mrs. MacArthur and Mrs. Kockler



## The Lion Class



It's hard to believe how fast this year is going! We came back from the long Christmas break with gusto. We loved hearing about the fun our Lions had over the break. All our Lion friends were definitely ready to be back at school and so were we! We began the month with a unit on Transportation. We discussed and brainstormed many different types of transportation. We talked about the fact that transportation is anything that takes you from here to there. We named different types of land, air, and water transportation and the class helped sort and group them. The class made many projects relating to our unit including a hot air balloon, name rockets and transportation easy reader. We read both fiction and non-fiction books about transportation for both learning and fun. Our class played with the train table and we had lots of fun racing cars and directing traffic on the floor.

The next unit we studied in January was all about winter, snow and Arctic animals. We talked about precipitation and what that means and how it relates to snow. We talked about the science of snowflakes and that no two are alike. We are discussing how snow forms and which is a natural segue into a discussion on shapes. We read a lot of fun books on Snowmen and Snow and talked about all the fun things you can do in the snow. We learned all about the different types of animals that live in the Arctic. We talked about animals in winter and how they adapt, migrate or hibernate and what those terms mean. The Lions made their biggest, best snowmen cutting their own circles and using lots of imagination to add accessories and snow. This activity is based on the book "The Biggest, Best Snowman" by Margery Cuyler. These snow people were a creative expression of each Lion. We made snowflakes using collage materials and snow globes after we read "The Snow Globe Family" by Jane O'Connor. During center time our Lions have been ice fishing, ice skating and exploring in the "Arctic" for dramatic play. We have several polar habitats the Lions enjoy along with our individual digging bins filled with "snow" and animals. We also excavated animals out of ice.

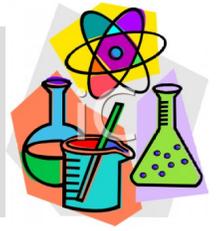
In February we will celebrate Valentine's Day and play in the post office. I'm hoping we will bake our own valentine treat, but no matter what we will have something tasty and deliver cards to our friends. In March we will celebrate our 100th day of school. It will likely be March 3 if we don't have any more snow days. We will do something in class to recognize our 100th day, but there is no homework or anything you need to think about.

I am always amazed at what these kids can do if you give them the opportunity and a safety net to succeed...and fail. Our Lions are an extremely confident class, which is fantastic. We encourage them to enjoy activities that they are good at without using the words "it's so easy". Our friends are all good at different things and I never want anyone to stop trying (and maybe even failing) because something isn't easy. We want to challenge our friends no matter where they are as individuals. As Brene Brown has said, "There is no innovation and creativity without failure. Period." They will all learn at their own speed, as I always say we work on progress, not perfection!

With love and a roar! Mrs. Nyman and Mrs. Jacobs



## The Discovery Room "Where no discovery is too small"



Why did the bike fall over? It was two tired. This month we explored the physics field by switching 'gears' to simple machines. I was amazed by how much information the students retained during this unit. I spoke with a fellow teacher and she informed me that her child is also learning simple machines right now--in the eighth grade!

During January students explored wheels and axles, pulleys, levers, screws, wedges, and slopes (with a little mini unit on springs as well). Students carried pom-poms in buckets across the Discovery Room without walking by using a pulley system. We explored wedges by hammering nails into Styrofoam blocks. We also made many slopes using found objects and raced cars with different weights/body types to compare velocities. With self-constructed inclined planes, we tested to see how slope steepness, friction, and ball mass impacts speed. Students made their own catapults and used them for target practice by shooting pom-poms across the hallway. Students drilled plastic screws into boards and assembled mini vehicles. During review, I was overcome by how well students could identify the different types of machines in household objects. In fact, ask your child about what simple machine can be found inside your body right now.

In February, we will focus on the human body and study organ systems in the following order: sensory/integumentary, skeletal, muscular, digestive, respiratory and cardiovascular. Towards the end of the month, we will 'dive' into biomes. I feel so grateful for this time I have with your children!

Yours in discovery,

Karolina Smith



# Music

During the month of January the students in the music room moved to songs about nighttime, planets, stars and the sun.

A favorite activity each January is using flashlights in the dimly lit music room. We used flashlights to create fireflies, make hand shadows and listen to lullabies. We also used flashlights to read various flashlight books about rocket ships, space and animals.

Students danced to songs about the planets. We used instruments to play and listen to songs about our star, the sun. The students also went on a pretend trip to outer space complete with a gravity free walk.

On pajama day we flipped "pancakes" with large plastic spoons and pretended to sleep to more lullabies.

The next unit in the music room will be three weeks of transportation followed with three weeks of rainbows (just in time for St. Patrick's day.)



## St. Andrew's Preschool Chapel News

This month we had an in-house field trip led by St Andrew's' organist and choirmaster, Gabe Simerson. Gabe will introduced the children to our beautiful pipe organ and showed them the console and the pipes and wind room.

We will have a second field trip led by me to show the kids the Nave and the Sacristy and what items are on the altar. These are always fun experiences, so be sure to ask your kids about it!

Besides these two fun experiences we will also learn about the Most Important Commandment and the Lenten Cross, in preparation for Lent.



Mrs. Dutton

## Chapel Schedule

Tuesday	Thursday	Story Sequence
2/15	2/17	In house field trip (Nave, Choir Loft, etc.)
2/22	2/24	Lenten Cross/Bury Alleluias
3/1	3/3	Faces of Easter 1
3/8	3/10	Faces of Easter 2

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool

6509 Sydenstricker Rd.  
Burke, VA 22015

Phone: 703-455-8458  
FAX: 703-455-2927

Email: [preschool@standrews.net](mailto:preschool@standrews.net)  
[preschooladmin@standrews.net](mailto:preschooladmin@standrews.net)



## REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Registration for current students, siblings of alumni and parishioners are currently being accepted for the 2022-2023 school year. We want to make sure that our current families have first priority!

We will open registration to the community on February 16th.

H A P P Y  
*Valentine's Day*

## News from The Church

Join us for Family Night In (COVID version of Parents' Night Out) on Friday, March 11th, at 7:00 p.m. Our theme is Reptiles & Amphibians, which will be presented by a Naturalist at Hidden Pond. We will also have a bag with activities relating to this program you can pick up from the church the week before the event. All you need is a computer and your whole family can join in the fun. We will again be covering the cost of this event as we have funds from our Parent's Night Out budget, so please sign up! The registration deadline is Friday, February 25th.

Register here: <https://onrealm.org/standrewsVA/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZWVkOWU4ZjctMGJiMS00MTFyLTgwODgtYWUyZjAwZjQxMTg0>

