



February 2019 Hilltop Happenings



Special Dates

2/18/19: President's Day- Hilltop School Closed

2/15/19: Scholastic Book Order Due-School Code-N3VWH



Hello Hilltop Families!

This January has been a cold month with lots of inside play time. It has been fun to see teachers embrace the cold by incorporating it into their curriculum! We do try to get outside whenever the temperature allows, sometimes this is only in the afternoon. Please remember to send your child with appropriate outdoor gear everyday so they will be prepared if the temperature goes up during the day.

Tracy, our assistant director, had baby Cooper on Wednesday January 9th. Everyone is doing great!



Please remember ALL children should have a change of clothing in their cubby each day. Children can get wet or messy during the day and feel much better if they can put on fresh clothes.

Just a reminder that Hilltop School will be closed on February 18th for President's day.

As always if you have any questions or concerns about anything please do not hesitate to stop by the office or email one of us.

Warmly, Miss Bethany and Miss Tracy



Hi Families!

Our January has been so much fun! This month we've been learning about animals that live in the cold!

The first week of January was our Polar Bear week. We read books such as "Ten in the Sled", "Dear Polar Bear", and "Bedtime for Little Bears". We made polar bears with our handprints and made polar bears from paper towel tubes.

During week two, we learned about walrus. We read books such as "Awesome Walrus", "Polar Animals" and "Magic School Bus; Arctic Adventures". We made walrus with our handprints and enjoyed our guest reader!

Up next: Whales! We read a fun songbook call "Baby Beluga" and another book called "Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale" which the children loved! We made whales with our handprints and learned how they stay warm in cold water.

Lastly, we learned about Miss Kate's favorite animal: penguins! We read many books

this week about penguins and listened to what they say! We read "If you were a penguin", "Penguins Up Close" and "Plenty of Penguins". How fun! We had a lot of fun spending extra time with Miss Janessah and Miss Gabrielle's classroom too!

See You next month!
With so much love,
Miss Tiffie and Miss Kate



Hello families!

We have certainly been ringing in the new year right! We have learned a lot about what the "New Year" means, we learned all about penguins, arctic and polar animals, and community helpers.

As we were talking about the new year we started a paper chain to show us how many days were in the month of January, we also turned that into working on patterns by making out chain out of yellow, orange, and red. Our friends are doing great with one-to-one correspondence when counting the links on our paper chain.

During our penguin week we talked all about what penguins look like, what they sound like, where they live, what they like to eat, and even what likes to eat them. We learned a big word "toboggan" and that is what it's called when penguins slide around on their bellies.

Next, we talked about arctic and polar animals, like the arctic fox, arctic hare, walrus, polar bears, moose, beluga whales, and seals! We talked about how lots of those animals change colors in the winter so that they can hide from the animals that want to eat them, and we learned the really big word "camouflage".



Hello Families!

Can you believe January is already over? It has been a fun and busy month here in the Toddler room. We got to welcome our new teacher Miss Gabrielle and we already love her to bits and pieces. We also said "Hello" to our new friend Elliyana.

We did lots of fun things this month too. Like making Arctic animals, reading "Llama, Llama" books, making red pajamas and llama faces. We also made slime and puffy paint. We learned about art too!

We did lots of dancing and singing too! Our new favorite is "baby doll circletime". This month has been a ton of fun. We can't wait to see the things we will do in February!

Miss Gabrielle and Miss Janessah

Finally, we have been learning about community helpers, we are talking about our doctors, police officers, fire fighters, mail men/women, and our dentist. We talked about how each one is helpful to our community.

Next month, we will be talking about the Chinese new year, hearts, friendship, as well as dental health since February is National Children's Dental Health Month.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to email us at misskenyonhilltop@gmail.com and missvaleriehilltop@gmail.com.

Until next time!

Miss Kenyon and Miss Valerie



Hello from Room 5 Preschool Room - It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of January!! Two more months of cold winter weather and then we should start getting a little taste of spring!!! We have been keeping busy here in Room 5 - We started our January by ringing in 2019. One of the books that we read this week was called *Shante' Keys and the New Year Peas*. This story tells of a family that rings in the New Year by making a special dish of black-eyed peas (or cowpeas). It just so happened that we had some blacked-eyed peas in

our bean sensory basket. We got to search for the black-eyed peas and take a close look at them. Our story also included a recipe for the black-eyed peas dish. We practiced our counting backwards skills and got to jump up shouting *HAPPY NEW YEAR* to each other using our special paper plate noise makers that we made.

Next, we moved on to penguins. We started our penguin week by making snowy pictures using plastic penguins and white paint. The children worked on strengthening their fine motor skills by jumping the penguins all over the paper. Next, we placed plastic penguins in a cup of water and put them outside. I asked the children what they thought might happen to the penguins. Some children said they thought the penguins would melt while others said they thought the penguins would freeze. The next day we brought the penguins inside and of course they were frozen. The children looked at the penguins and asked me how they were going to get the penguins out. I asked the children for ideas. The children suggested blowing on the ice, stirring the ice and putting the ice in their hands. The children felt that these ideas were taking too long. I thought I would help the process along so I got out the salt. Sure enough, it wasn't long before our penguins were free!! Next, we moved on to learning about animals and life in the

Arctic. Some of the stories that we read talked about igloos. However, after some research, we learned that igloos are not used that much anymore. It was still fun to learn how they are made. The children thought it might be fun to live in an igloo but wondered how they would keep warm. We talked about (and researched) how we could do that. We found that it is important to wear warm clothing and to cover the bottom of the igloo with things such as pine needles or dirt to insulate the floor. The most important thing is to have lots of friends join you in the igloo because the more body heat the warmer the igloo! Body heat will keep the igloo considerably warmer. We also found out that the as the body heats up the igloo, it will melt a thin layer of the inside. When this layer refreezes, the igloo will be even warmer and more airtight. I don't know about you, but I think I will stick with my nice warm house. With all this talk about igloos, we decided to use paper bowls and white tissue paper to make mini igloos. It was lots of fun and much warmer building than the real thing! Next, we learned about how arctic animals stay warm. Animals such as polar bears, seals, etc have lots of fat underneath their fur (blubber). To demonstrate this, we put Crisco shortening in a two-layered sandwich bag and taped it tightly closed to make a little

glove. Then, we put lots of ice in water. Next, we tried putting our hand without the glove in the water. It was very cold. Then, we put our hands in the "blubber" glove. Our hands stayed nice and warm!! We also spent the week ice fishing in our "pond" and crawling into our classroom igloo to fry up some fish. We practiced our counting skills with a fun goldfish cracker game - after rolling dice, we counted how many fish we caught and put them in our game board fishnet. The best part of the game was of course getting to eat some of the goldfish crackers!!! We ended the week by putting socks on our hands and painting like a polar bear. The children noticed how different it was to not have fingers to use to paint. It was a lot of messy fun. Next, we learned all about medical professionals - doctors, nurses, etc. We looked at all the different types of instruments that medical professionals use in their work. We even made our own medical bags. We set up our own Hilltop Clinic and took turns caring for friends and our baby dolls. We learned a lot about germs and how we can keep germs from spreading. We tried our hand at painting with cotton swabs. We looked at real x-rays. We got to see how we look underneath of our skin. We made hand x-rays by tracing our hands and then adding cotton swabs where the bones in our hands might be. Our last week of January we will

continue learning about the medical field by learning about hospitals!

Reminders:

*Please provide your child with extra clothes (pants, shirts, underwear, socks, extra mittens). Sometimes during this time of year, the snow can be a bit wet.
*It is helpful for your child to have a water bottle for their cubbies (please no bottled water).

Until next time,
Miss Laurie



Hello Family and Friends!
We started the month of January by learning about how to make a snow person. We loved the both "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Bueher. We made snowpeople with shaving cream and glitter. This was a fun sensory activity. We practiced getting dressed for winter and had fun seeing how fast we could put on all of our all of our winter clothing. We put all of our gloves in a basket and took turns matching everything! We liked the book "The Jacket I Wear In the Snow" by Shirley Neitzel. We got dressed as we listen to the story. We learned all about winter weather. It was fun to sponge paint a blizzard as it was snowing outside! We painted with ice cubes and then watched them turn into water.

We ended the month learning about Artic animals. We had fun walking around our classroom like penguins. We made polar bear caves with white playdough.

In February, we will be learning about pets, friendship, and transportation. We will also be celebrating Dr. Sues's birthday.

Miss Amy



Hello families and welcome to the year 2019! We started the month of January off with learning about colors & numbers! We practiced counting to 10, 20 and we even made it all the way up to 100! Can you believe it? We have some amazing counters in Pre-k!

On our word wall we displayed the numbers one through ten in word form and practiced recognizing numbers in print as well!

The children enjoyed creating colorful numbers with bingo daubers and painting beautiful artwork with all the colors of the rainbow!

One of the books the children loved listening to was "Little Blue and Little Yellow". What they discovered while listening to the story was that when blue &

yellow are mixed together it creates green! After the story, the children each made paintings with the colors blue & yellow. They were very pleased when they were able to mix the two colors together & create a shade of green just like in the story! For the second week of January we discussed winter & snow! We asked the children "what's your favorite thing to do in the snow"?

Is it:

- 1: build snowmen?
- 2: slide down the hill?
- 3: make snow angels?
- 4: shovel?
- 5: catch snowflakes?
- 6: play with friends?

After we tallied up their answers we were left with a tie! The two most popular answers were build a snowman and play with friends! Both received 5 votes each!

For a group project we worked together and created a BIG snowman on paper with markers! We each took a turn adding something to our picture and the end result is adorable! Take a peek at them the next time you're over our way, they're hanging in the entryway!

Another fun activity that we did ties in with the story "Snowmen at Night". After listening to the story, the children created white chalk drawings of what they imagined snowmen do at night! They did a great job! These as well can be viewed in our entryway!

We finished our week off with the

story "The Snowman Storybook". After we finished the story, the children put their scissor cutting skills to the test and cut out several pieces for their melted snowman art project! All by themselves! They did amazing! After they were finished with cutting, they glued all of the pieces onto paper to look as though their snowman had melted. The end results were fantastic!

After learning about winter & snow, we decided mittens would be a great topic! We taught the children a new song based off of the book "The Mitten". The children loved singing it and we sang it everyday! If you're interested in the words & melody, let us know, we'll give you a copy!

We also created a "Snow Fun" book as a class. The pages look like mittens and the children each illustrated what their favorite thing to do is while in the snow with their mittens on. The children love it when we read it to them at story time. They giggle at every page. If you'd like to view our book it's available in our classroom!

The children cut out and designed a pair of mittens as well and worked on name/letter recognition. To end the week we had the children take turns being measured and also measuring a friend using only mittens! A lot of our friends measured in at 7 mittens! Our tallest child measured in at 8 mittens tall! The

children thought it was hilarious when Miss Kathy measured Miss Cassie with the mittens too! It was a fun group activity that everyone enjoyed!

To end the month of January we are learning about bears! Polar bears, black bears, brown bears and even teddy bears! We have a beautiful bear collage up for viewing in our science center along with a panda bear habitat for play. We've learned interesting facts about what they eat, where they live and what they do! We created brown paper bag bear puppets, brown bear masks and a bear painting! The children illustrated pictures of what they would eat if they were a bear and we put all of their pages into a second classroom book!

We'll be ending the month with a very fun pajama day and a teddy bear picnic! What a great January we have had! We have learned and grown so much and we are looking forward to what February has in store for us! Till next time,
Miss Cassie & Miss Kathy



What a great January! Everyone in Miss Michelle's class has been working very hard on their letters, numbers, AND getting used to a BRAND NEW ROUTINE!

Our letters for the month of February will continue, with focus on letters Ss, Tt, Uu, and Vv. We are working hard on recognizing that the letters look like and their sounds! In math we are counting by 1s and 10s to 100 and learning different ways to write the numbers. In reading we are learning how to treat books, the correct way to turn pages, and ways to read! We are beginning to sound out the letters and we are learning new sight words. Once a child masters reading a sight word book with no mistakes, they get to bring them home to read to their families. They will continue to get new books to read and master. They LOVE being able to read books!

In science, we are doing fun experiments and recording our results in our journals. We learned all about penguins and how the oil on their feathers keep them dry, while a layer of blubber keeps them warm. We got to test it with our "blubber glove" experiment. We will also be doing experiments with salt crystals and sugar crystals. We will be looking at crystals under the microscope too! Everyone is having lots of fun and learning new things to get ready for Kindergarten!

Miss Michelle
