

### Highlights of the Week

Dear families, Happy New year!

Many exciting things happened in our room in the past two weeks. The themes were SNOW and POLAR ANIMALS. We brought inside some snow and, after painting it with water colors we left it in the bucket on the shelves and...oops, it melted! We learned the "Snow song" along with the sign for the word "snow" and the children were doing different works about recognizing and matching snowflakes pictures.

We started to talk about the polar animals by observing our globe and learning where the North and the South Pole are. Then the children were told that the Poles are very cold places where people can not live for long but where there are different kinds of animals that love the snow, the ice and the very cold temperatures. We read many non-fiction books with photos of polar animals and we did a science experiment on how the polar animals stay warm.

The following new works were introduced and added to the shelf these week:

**Math:** counting snowballs; numbers puzzle.

**Language area:** books about snow and polar animals; polar animals matching game.

**Sensorial area:** sorting snowflakes (big, medium, small); matching snowflakes using the magnifying glass; matching colors with penguin shapes and pom poms.

**Practical life:** eye dropper and soap pad.

**Art:** painting the snow; painting at the easel.

**Science:** snow (solid to liquid); how polar bears stay warm experiment.

**Sign language:** snow; bear.

Two of our friends, Joshua and Burhanuddin, moved up to a pre-primary classroom and we welcomed two new friends: Nathaniel and Zacharia!

#### Dr. Maria Montessori Words:

*"The person who is developing freely and naturally arrives at a spiritual equilibrium in which he is master of his actions, just as one who has acquired physical poise can move freely." M. Montessori*

#### Reminder:

- January 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL
- February 12th Curriculum night phase 2
- February 16th Family Ball at Troy Community center 6pm to 7:30pm
- February 19th & 20th Mid-Winter Break NO SCHOOL

#### Home/School Connection

Some housekeeping reminders:

- Lunch boxes AND water bottles must be labeled every day with first name, last name and date.
- Lunch boxes must be labeled on the outside, so that the name is visible.

If you do not know it, yet, you can check the following website for permanent name tags, stickers, and labels of every kind: [inch-bug.com](http://inch-bug.com).