

Dear Bear Parents,

November 2015

BRRRRR! As the weather turns cold, we are working on independence skills with coats, zippers and gloves. Practice helps the students strengthen their "I can do it muscles!" We will go outside for some fresh air as often as possible; our benchmark is 30 degrees or warmer.

Our project is in full swing. We have worked with small groups to experiment with pulleys, axles and wheels, levers and gears. These machines are right up the kid's alley! They are so engaged and you can see the wheels turning in their little heads. Next week we will explore incline planes and then put all of our new knowledge to work as we design our contraptions.



In the classroom, we are also working on numeral writing, numeral recognition and quantifying. We will be assessing 1-10 for each student individually to see which children are ready to move on and which children need more practice. Our goal for the Bear class is for all of the children to be comfortable counting and quantifying up to 20. We will continue to work toward this as the year progresses. Practice at home is always helpful as well ☺

Our Writers Workshop focus is fairy tales! We have been reading multiple versions of *The Three Bears* and *The Three Little Pigs*. Next week we will read a few more classic fairy tales. Before Thanksgiving break we will read *The Little Red Hen* and the teachers will perform *The Little Red Hen* for the children ☺ We are discussing how multiple versions of the fairy tales are the same and different, we are talking about characters, beginning middle and end of stories and real vs. pretend. We have also been working with props to retell the stories. This is one of our favorite Writers Workshop focuses! Please keep celebrating the books your child makes (if you aren't seeing any books come home, encourage your student to make one)!



We look forward to seeing you at The Thanksgiving Potluck on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event is hands down our favorite event of the year as Lads and Lassies families gather for fellowship and to share a meal. We have made some tweaks to ensure we have enough food for everyone (there were 250 of us last year)!

Your partnership is so valuable.  
Thank you for sharing your child with us!  
The Bear Team

\*Also, it is not too late to join us for our book talk- November 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00. All are welcome. Even if you don't want to read the book, come by and chat!