



**February Newsletter  
Volume 2011-2012, Issue 6**



**MARCH/APRIL SCHEDULE:**

Thursday, March 1 – Tuition due

Monday, March 12 – Individual and group photos taken

Thursday, March 15 – St. Patrick's Day, wear green!

Thursday, March 22 – Skating field trip 17333 Virginia Ave., (*\$6 fee per family*) 9:30 – 11:30

Thursday, March 29 – Easter egg hunt at 11AM/organized by Kathy, Linda Brady's daughter

Monday, April 2 through Tuesday April 10 – No school

Thursday, April 26 - Field trip to Renfrew Museum/Waynesboro(*\$3/fee*)

Monday, April 30 – Hearing and Vision tests by Health Dept.

We had three wonderful fun times as a whole preschool this month.

For Valentine's Day, the chocolate fountain was enjoyed by all.

Otto the Auto taught us about safety in the car, riding a bike and walking across the street.

AND the firemen (Emma Thomas' father!) came to visit! Make sure you ask your child what should be done in case of fire!



Circle Time! (Linda's circle time for three year olds)

The children are taking a more active role in circle time these days. In addition to the daily helper, either the yellow group or the orange group assists me by putting up our counters and numerals every day. We've been making more time for music too and have had fun dancing with pretend snakes! We continue to work on name recognition and numerals up to ten. We are also learning what the title of a book is and where to find the title page. The children are also learning how to look at books by themselves and make up a story to tell themselves. This month we have also been talking about family and friends and how even if a loved one gets unhappy about something we do, they will always love us.

We've had some special visitors at the end of the month as we learned about car and bike safety. We also met some real firemen who taught us about fire safety (and brought their fire truck for us to see!).

Some of our favorite fingerplays from February:

### Skinnamarink

Skinnamarink a dinky dink  
Skinnamarink a do  
I love you!  
Skinnamiarink a dinky dink  
Skinnamarink a do  
I love you!  
I love you in the morning and in the afternoon  
I love you in the evening and underneath the moon!  
Skinnamarink a dinky dink  
Skinnamarink a do  
I love you!

### Love Somebody

Love somebody, yes I do!  
Love somebody, yes I do!  
Love somebody, yes I do!  
I love somebody and it must be you!



Linda's Creative Corner

Mondays: We had fun getting ready for Valentine's Day this month by decorating our valentine mailboxes and painting large hearts at the easel. We will finish up the month by trying our hand at fingerpainting!

Tuesdays: One of our favorite story stretchers this month was with the book, The Mitten by Jan Brett. The children got to pretend to be the different animals in the story and crawl into my large 'mitten' (a blanket). I got to play the part of the bear! They then cut pieces of yarn and glued them onto a paper mitten. One of our favorite valentine stories was No Matter What by Debi Gliori. We talked about how our mommies love us no matter what. The four year olds were then given a folder paper heart to cut out and the three years olds were given a heart already cut out. Everyone then learned how to print an X to represent a kiss and an O to represent a hug. They drew the X and O on their paper heart and took it home to give to their own mommies.

Thursdays: The highlight of our creative play day has been the addition of the truck corner to the classroom. The children are learning how to play cooperatively with dump trucks, fire trucks, monster trucks and more!



### **Miss Nancy's Notebook**

Love has certainly been overflowing at Northern Cross with the celebration of Valentine's Day. The children are wonderful and make every day special by sharing a smile, a hug, a special story and being kind to their friends and teachers.



The students are presently learning to identify shapes, trace them and then cut them out. Their work will not be revealed until later as they are working on a surprise for the end of the year!

As always, I want to thank all of you who have so graciously given snacks for the students. They are very much appreciated.



### Team Green News

We started the month with Space! We had fun playing with the rockets and pretending to be astronauts and aliens. The kids played with the inflated planets and we formed a model of our solar system with each child holding a planet. We then moved on to the Grocery Store and I included some nutritional lessons during this week such as identifying the food groups. During the third week of February, we turned the classroom into an office and the kids were busy talking on their pretend cell phones and stamping away on the envelopes. We are finishing this week with our “Community Helpers” box since the fireman will be visiting. We sure have done a lot this month! The kids are really comfortable with the routine now and it makes teaching them easy and a pleasure! It had been nice to get outdoors more and I hope the weather continues to cooperate with us!





### Miss Debby's Science and Social Studies

We have covered many interesting topics this month. We are working on songs about the days of the week and the months of the year. We grew crystals in the classroom and discussed stalactites that hang tightly from the ceiling and stalagmites that push mightily up from the floors of caves. We demonstrated this using our magnets that hang from our ceiling. Next we draped cloth over our furniture and hung out in our caves hibernating. In addition to Valentine's Day, Otto the Auto and a visit from the firefighters, we looked for where in the world is our friend Chesley (New Zealand) and we watched the earth from the ISS – we even saw lightening! It was a great month for the orange room!

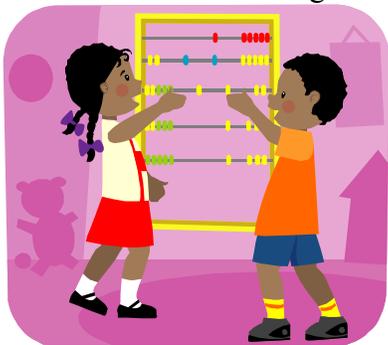




### Miss Beth's Circle Time for Four Year Olds!

We called February the “Month of Love” complete with a magic heart that required the children to ask it questions and the heart would magically answer, “No”, “Maybe”, or “Yes”. This gave the children an opportunity to learn how to form a question and much fun was had by all when the magic heart would NOT answer the way we wanted. A favorite question was “Is it going to snow?” and the magic heart was correct all the time! Our (MY) favorite books included Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink (how to treat a friend) and Arthur's Valentine. This was the book that we were reading when the Sweet Adelines entered. I had just covered my mouth and part of my face with lipstick to pretend to kiss the children as they closed their eyes and held out their hands (they were really getting Hershey kisses).

We are diligently studying rhyming with our books and activities. The children are now able to write an ending on their writing board and add the first letter sound to make a word. We were working on: \_ab, \_ad, \_ag, \_an, \_ap, \_at. The next vowel will be “o” and we will add ends and blends to make words. This is done mainly to encourage excitement in the children that they can read. Many alumni parents tell me their children are at accelerated reading levels when they are tested and we do it all by fun! No flash cards! No silly drills!



### Mathematical Marvels

Mondays we read a math Big Book, use manipulatives that complement the subject on Tuesdays and work with playdough on Thursdays.

We worked with the Presidents and their friends this month by sorting and counting money. The purpose was to differentiate the coins, match the coins, count how many pennies in each coin and compare prices of common purchases such as a piece of fruit and a bike. Which is more? Which is less?

We also discussed fractions. We focused on sharing by dividing into equal pieces. The purpose of this activity was to discern if the children could label a container whole, some or none. The older children added half, third, and fourth.

Our favorite playdough day came in the form of making GAK. It is Linda's recipe – fun and messy! Gak won't stick together like playdough – you have to put the pieces in your hands to warm up and “melt” them back together. Try it OUTSIDE unless you love messes like we do! Here's the recipe:

In one bowl mix 2 cups Elmer's Glue and 1.5 cups warm water (food coloring if desired)

In ANOTHER bowl mix 1.5 Tablespoons Borax and 1 cup HOT water. Add them together and stir!

