**Looking back on February into March……..**



Dear families,

Time is quickly passing; here we are almost into our next season of spring. I hope all of you had a restful and enjoyable break; the children seemed eager and excited to return to school when it was time. The routine has changed when the children enter the classroom, they no longer put their animal picture up on the white board, instead they write their name on a small strip and place it in the basket before washing their hands and sitting down for a meal with their friends. The children who are moving on to kindergarten next year have been given a Handwriting Without Tears page to fill in as a part of their morning routine to help them practice the proper way to write letters.

In the spirit of Valentine’s Day we read the story How to Fill a Bucket which talks about the way you make others feel when you do something kind, and the way you make them feel when you do something unkind. During these conversations I like to highlight how they themselves feel when they do something kind for someone else, they feel good too! The book uses the term “filling a bucket” to describe how you make someone feel happy, we have been using this language throughout our school days. To help fill a friend’s bucket for Valentine’s Day each child picked a name from a basket and whoevers name they got was who they decorated a heart for. This activity is a beautiful way of honoring each individual child in the class, and provides an opportunity for the each student to stop and think carefully about another child in the class.

The last few weeks we have been going to the woods to sit by our cozy campfires while drinking tea and listening to stories. The fire station field trip was a big hit. Please look for pictures of the field trip on our website! The children have matured in their ability to listen to stories without props which shows that their listening and cognitive skills have progressed. They are now able to create pictures in their heads while verbally listening to a story being told. This is a critical prereading skill, which is one reason out of many that storytelling is so important.

At work time the children have been very eager to play board games which encourages the important skill of turn taking as well as practicing such math skills as pattern, counting, color and shape recognition. While outside the children observed how the wind moved their hair and hats about. This interest led us to making our butterfly kites that they then flew around the playground that windy afternoon.

For journal time we have been learning how we start our letter writing at the top. We listen and follow along to a song that talks about this. After reading the story Bark George, we noticed that there was a strong interest in pets in our class. Each child got a turn to share about their pets at home (or a pet they would like to have) while holding the talking stick during our go-around. Teachers picked up this interest and have decided to do a pet unit as our next unit of study.

In the Loose Part Play area we received a beautiful big building block set, which came in its own little shed. We are thrilled about this new addition to our play area. This allows for children to expand their imaginative play in a new way by creating shelters, houses, boats and whatever else they can imagine.

When you enter the room now you will notice that the walls have been stripped and the dramatic play area is no longer a fire station as we are ending our fire unit and heading into a pizza unit!

While our fire unit is officially over we will continue to have campfires in our woods spot for the next month. I am excited to share that we will be doing some cooking over the campfire; this week we will make applesauce! We are looking for apple donations to make the applesauce by this Thursday, March 16th. Thank you for your support!

Important Announcements and Events

* Friday, March 24th is a full inservice day for the preschool team. There is NO PRESCHOOL on this day.
* There will be a class on social and emotional development being held at Cabot school on Thursday, March 30th. More details to come!
* Parent teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, April 6th and Friday, April 7th. You will be receiving the date and time of your conference in the upcoming weeks. There will be no preschool on Friday, April 7th.

I will leave you with this song………..

We come from the mountains

We come from the mountains

Go back to the mountains

Turn the world around

Weeeeeee

Comeeeee

Frommmm

The mountains

Go back to the mountains

Turn the world around!

Warmly, Elaina & Emily