

DECEMBER
Ms. Anna's Classroom Newsletter
Specials

Animal Enrichment and Keeper's talk

We visited reindeers named, Apollo and Tundra with keeper, Ms. Lori. Ms. Lori explained the difference between the male and female reindeer. Apollo the male has a much bigger antler rack than Tundra the female. Apollo will lose his antlers soon. They drop off every year and regrow! Fun fact: Antlers are made of bone!



The class went on a giraffe tour with Ms. Judy. She also brought in a giraffe's skull! It was huge! The kids were able to touch the skull and learn more about the ossicones, which are bones on top of a giraffe's head that are normally covered with skin. Ms. Judy let the kids know that giraffes have a really great sense of hearing and they do not like the cold weather. A fun fact that she shared with the preschoolers was that giraffes only sleep 5 to 15 minutes a day!



Animal Ambassador (Pet Project)

Ms. Liz brought in three bats named "Flappi," "Echo," and "O-Neg" to the classroom. The kids were able to see and observe them up close! They have five small fingers with sharp nails, sharp teeth, and big ears. She, also, showed us a Red bat biofact! We have Red bats here in New York. Red bats sleep in leaves because they are covered with brown fur. A fun fact about bats is their wingspan can grow as long as an adult's arms when spread out!



Ms. Hilary brought in, Jabuti, the red-footed tortoise for World Wildlife Conservation Day. Jabuti felt comfort in the classroom since the kids were being so quiet. He walked around slowly, so everyone was able to observe him. They noticed that he has 4 toes, no teeth, and ears that you can't see. Ms. Hilary pointed out the rings on the back of his shell. It's the same rings that we can also find on trees to help determine age!



Biofact

"All about the eggs!" biofact by Ms. Peggy. Ms. Peggy brought in different samples of eggs and nests from different animals! The smallest egg was from a lorikeet and the biggest was from a Rhea bird. The kids wondered how birds made the nest. They use their beaks and all different materials such as leaves, twigs, strings and even bottle caps.





Visiting Experts: Pop-up Sensory Day!

Ms. Lindsay set up different sensory stations to review our lesson about five senses. There was slime, DIY snow, gel sensory mats, and cranberry taste test. It was a very imaginative way for children to explore their senses.



Ms. Lynn made a special holiday ornaments with the kids. She helped the kids transform a pine cone into a reindeer! So festive!

SOCIALS: Snowflake Day!

We did Christmas caroling in the Education building with our families. The kids wore bells and bracelets and our family members got to use egg shakers for their instruments. Santa paid a surprise visit with Mayor Rick Davis of Tonawanda. He read a special book to everyone and during the reading, Santa stopped by for a surprise visit! There were lots of fun games and activities for everyone to take part in such as pin the nose on the snowman and making a gingerbread man collage. Everyone enjoyed healthy snacks together, too! To conclude the party, Ms. Amber brought in Franklin the falcon for a visit.



Holiday party with Book Buddies!!

Book Buddies came in and read holiday stories to the kids. They then exchanged cards and gifts with each other. They even shared healthy snacks together!



The class presented gifts to the keepers for the animals. We know the animals' favorite treats! The polar bears received chicken noodle soup and dog food. The hyena's received peanut butter, pumpkins and carrots! We love giving back to our animal friends!



Kitchen Corner

Ms. Sandy, Sam's mom, made healthy shakes with kids using spinach, pineapple, mango, and banana! We also made a veggie lodge with Ms. Anna. It's a healthy version of a Gingerbread house! We used seaweed wrap, carrots, celery, broccoli, tomatoes, and cream cheese!

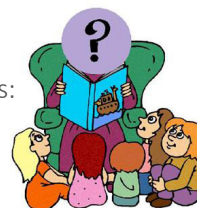


Shout Outs

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday Michael, Dani, and Ms. Peggy!

Thank you to Mystery Readers:
Amanda (Michael's mom),
Mary (Bailey's grandma),
Maureen (Ryan's grandma),
and Mayor Rick Davis!



Thank you, Sandy, for
decorating the classroom
for Snowflake Day!