



# February

## Ms. Anna's Classroom Newsletter Specials



### Animal Enrichment and Keeper's Talk

The class went to the Reptile House to visit Millie, the rattlesnake mascot with Ms. Penny. Millie showed her belly scales that help her slither and the dots on her skin that let her blend in to her environment. Rattlesnakes saliva is venom and venom is toxic to people. Ms. Penny talked about how important it is to give rattlesnakes some space. If you leave them alone, they will leave you alone.



We had an enrichment with Kadal the Komodo dragon and keeper Ms. Shelby. Ms. Shelby told the class that they sprayed paper links with vanilla and put mice and rabbit meat into a heart shaped box for Kadal to enjoy. Kadal is a meat eater, no veggies for him. He used his tongue to smell the scented paper. He didn't open his box while the kids were watching but Ms. Anna did get them a video a few days later of Kadal finding the box and enjoying his snack.



We visited the snow leopards, Altai and Sabrina, with keepers Melissa and Jill. For the snow leopard's enrichment there were paper links sprayed with maple and blood popsicles. As soon as Altai and Sabrina came outside they smelled their enrichment and started snacking. The kids learned that Altai is a male and Sabrina is a female. They absolutely love the cold and their best sense is their eyesight. **Fun Fact: They use their long furry tail as a scarf and blanket!**



The class had a special Valentine's enrichment with polar bears, Sakari and Luna. Ms. Caitlyn prepared heart shaped treats for them made from lard, juice, jello, dog biscuits and peanut butter. Sakari and Luna loved the treats! Channel 2 even came to watch the special enrichment!



### Animal Ambassador

Ms. Jane brought in a milk frog named Rio. They have blue bones and have special toe pads to help cling to things. The "milk" spots on the frog help them stay hydrated but is also poisonous to predators.



### Biofact

Ms. Judy brought in a Rattlesnake biofact. The kids were able to see a rattlesnake skin up close and touch it. The rattle even made a rattling sound when lightly tapped. Ms. Judy, also, brought in a frog artifact. She showed the class a frog's life cycle. Starting from a tadpole to an adult frog. The kids learned that this process is called metamorphosis.





## Visting Experts

Ms. Janna came in and made seed bombs with the kids. She showed the kids how to make them using plant seeds, recycled paper and water. They carefully put them into different shape molds and let them dry. Depending on what color paper you use, your seed bomb will be that color. So cool! These were so fun and unique to make that the class will be selling them as a fundraiser!



Dr. Amy a friendly community helper and Michael's mom came in to celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month. She taught the class how to care for their teeth. Dr. Amy shared how important it is to brush twice a day and for 2 minutes each time. She went over healthy foods and junk foods. Junk foods give us "sugar bugs" and we need to brush and floss those sugar bugs out of our teeth. She also shared a fun fact that humans have 20 teeth but polar bears have 42!



## Socials

We celebrated Friendship Day with book buddies! The kiddos made special friendship necklaces and cards for their buddies. Their buddies gave them a card and a yummy treat. Everyone got to enjoy heart shaped strawberry pop tarts together. What a heartfelt celebration!



## Staff and Keeper's Appreciation Day

The class prepared songs for the Zoo staff and did a great performance. They made a Thank You poster board letting the staff and keepers know how important they are to them. The kiddos even handed out gifts to them!



## Kitchen Corner

**YUMM!**

Danielle, Luca's Mom, made healthy strawberry pop-tarts that were shaped like hearts! Not only did the kids learn about the heart shape, they were able to taste them, too! Joe, Hadley's Dad, came in and made pizza with the class. The kids helped assemble each pizza and then got to snack on it!



## Shout Outs

**Happy Birthday!**

Happy Birthday to Ms. Anna & Sam

Thank you to our Mystery Reader: Sandy (Sam's mom)

**THANK YOU**

Caitlin and Ms. Lindsay for helping out with Open House!

