



## Ms. Anna's Classroom Newsletter Specials

### Animal Enrichment & Keeper's Talk (Signs of Winter)

Visited the Arctic foxes with keeper, Ms. Melissa. The class prepared a healthy snack for Sven, Kristoff, Olaf, and Ash. They placed their favorite snacks such as blueberries, carrots, celery, sweet potatoes, and green beans in PVC pipes.



Luna's back! The kids were very excited to see Luna first as she came out from denning! They had a special keeper's talk with Ms. Caitlyn Bruce. Luna was already swimming in her pool and showing off by splashing and diving in the water. The kids watched a special video of Luna during her denning period. Ms. Caitlyn shared that Luna had a special soft bedding in her den and even a pool in there. Luna dens in preparation to one day have babies. It was very exciting for everyone to see Luna after 2 months of denning!



### Animal Ambassador

Oz, the Rainbow snake came in for a visit with Ms. Judy. The kids used their science touch (2 fingers up!) to feel Oz's skin and see up close the beautiful pattern on his skin. Rainbow snakes do not have ears but can sense vibrations.

Everyone had to be aware of their bodies and not make any sudden movements. Oz, also, uses his tongue to smell. He is a cold blooded animal so he kept wrapping himself around Ms. Judy's arm for warmth.



### Biofact

Ms. Hilary and Ms. Peggy collected items for an Arctic biofact. They brought in Reindeer antlers, a polar bear pelt and Harp seal pelt. The kids were able to touch them, describe their textures and learn fun facts about each. Reindeer antlers are covered with a soft brown hair like skin called "velvet." A polar bear's hair is actually not white, it's clear! A Harp seal mother can identify their babies by their smell. The kiddos love learning fun facts about Zoo animals!

**FUN FACTS**







## Visiting Experts

The class was interested in fireworks when they came back after the break. Tim, (Ryan's dad) a chemist, helped us explore fireworks safely in the classroom. He went over the safety rules and we described what fireworks are (e.g. loud, colorful). He said, "Instead of using fire, we'll make a burst of colors in a jar!" With this experiment, "fireworks in a jar," we used oil, warm water, and food coloring. Ms. Anna did a follow up experiment with the same ingredients but this time using cold water. We definitely saw a difference in the colors' bursting movements!



Dan, Dominic's Dad, was a musician guest that taught us a new transition song in school. He helped us come up with a new "Hold the railing song" and everyone loved it! Everyone got to share their favorite songs. Dan, also, showed the kids how to warm up their voices using humming, yawns and throat clearing. The best piece of advice was to always smile and have fun while singing!



## Socials

We welcome the New Year in at the Rainforest with Gracie, the Macaw and Ms. Shanna. The kids gave holiday gifts to Ms. Shanna and she asked Gracie to open them. Gracie was feeling shy, so she didn't open them in front of everyone. She did give Ms. Shanna a hug and we got to hear her say "Hello." So cool!



## Pet Project Culminating Event

Ms. Sarah brought in Vicki's healthy eggs (the Great Horned Owl) to show how keepers take really great care of our Zoo animals. Vicki had 3 eggs! She normally only lays 2 eggs, so it is very exciting that this time she has 3. Ms. Sarah explained to the kids that Vicki eats a special diet and goes outside for exercise and even plays in the snow! The kids were able to carefully touch the eggs and feel its hard outer shell. This is to protect what is inside.



## PJ Day

The class celebrated the completion of the "Turtle stack" challenge with a PJ party! The kids did so many fun activities. They made dream catchers with Caitlin, Hadley's mom. They made yarn turtles with Ms. Lindsay. They, also, made turtle necklace to keep and remind the kids to use their turtle stacking to manage their emotions. The musical "sleeping bag" game taught the class how to problem solve and work as a team. Then everyone got to enjoy a Daniel Tiger video while eating popcorn and snuggling with their stuffed animal and blanket. Such a fun way to celebrate!

## Kitchen Corner

**YUMM!**

Inspired by the book, "Mr. Panda" the class made healthy baked cinnamon donuts with Ms. Anna. Delicious! We also made frozen fruit pops, nature's candy! We used sliced strawberries, bananas, avocados, and placed them all into a blender...YUM!



## Shout Outs



Hannah, & Half Birthdays for Dominic, Corinne, and Bailey!

Thank you to Mystery Readers: Kathleen (Hannah's Mom), Jake (Dani's Dad), Jay (Michael's Dad), Drew (Sam's Dad), EunJoo (Victoria's Aunt), Caitlin (Hadley's Mom), Rochelle (Lola's Mom), and Astronaut Kate Rubins!

