

# The Little Flower

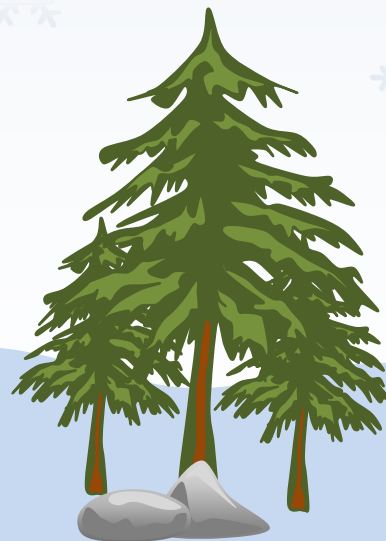


## News from the Coordinator

It has been a happy New Year here in the Little Flower, starting with a warm welcome to everyone on the first day of school in 2012, through our Chinese New Year celebrations starting January 23. It has also been a new year of changes, as some of our little flowers have moved over to The Blossom, and our good friend Anna moved back to Europe with her family. We miss them all, but wish them good new learning adventures wherever they go!

This mild winter has given us many days of outdoor play, as well as lots of fun indoor activities. One popular activity has been our homemade play dough, and due to popular demand, our recipe follows on the art page.

Happy New Year, everyone!





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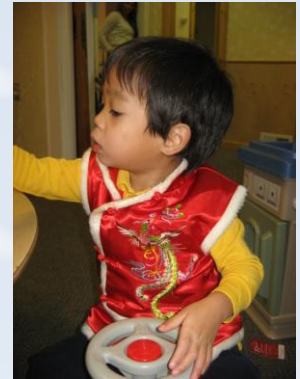
## *The Wonderful Whales by Ms Lourdes*

All of us—Luke, Griffin, Hana, Alexander, Addi, Kevin and Nate—are happy to welcome to our class this month two new friends, Abby and Charlie.

During class time we have continued learning more about community workers. We do this by playing together, pretending to be vets, police and firefighters, and other hands-on experiences. We enjoyed being cooks, zookeepers, doctors and veterinarians.

We enjoyed the visit of The Seed's kitchen manager, Chef Ms. Ana, who helped us make vegetable soup. We rolled up our sleeves, cut up vegetables and enjoyed smelling (and then eating!) the steaming hot soup. We also made fruit salad, hot chocolate and bread sticks together. YUM!

We also learned about zookeepers and how to take care of different animals. As doctors, we learned about the human body and healthy habits. We used a doctor kit with stethoscopes, band aids and syringes. Being a veterinarian was our favorite because we helped our stuffed animal friends feel better.





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## The Bookworms

by Ms Peggy

This month the Bookworms said goodbye to Jake, Evan, James and Rylan, who all moved over to the Blossom. We welcomed Karl and Kaitlyn to our class. We also said goodbye to Anna who moved with her family to the Czech Republic. We will miss Anna and hope to keep in touch through email. We look forward to seeing our Blossom friends in the playground.

We started this month with calendar and weather. We look at the calendar each day, we sing the days of the week song, figure out what day it is and then we count the days.

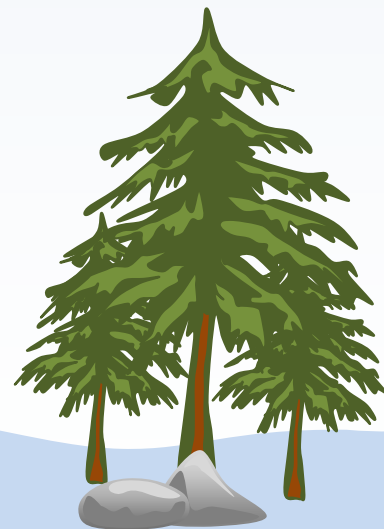
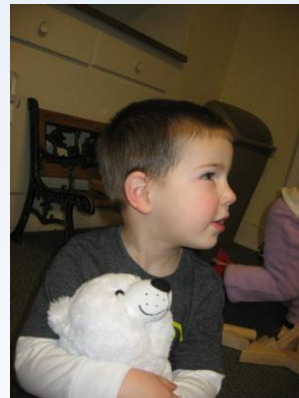
For weather, we use a sister, a brother or a baby on the easel board. We look out the windows and then we decide how to dress them so they can go to school. According to the Bookworms, the baby goes to baby school but the others go to the Little Flower.

We painted snowflakes and then put glitter on them. We also colored snowmen and when the pieces were cut out, we glued them together on construction paper.

We also took some ice that was in the shade in the playground and placed it in the sun. When we came back to check on it, we discovered it had melted and all we had left was water. The one morning that it was snowing, we took black construction paper and caught snowflakes on it. We were trying to see if they were all different but they were melting pretty fast.

We have also been learning about Chinese New Year. We read *Lion Dancer*, *Ernie Wan's Chinese New Year* and we have been making lanterns to hang. We have been doing our own cutting on the lanterns. We also learned to say Gung Hey Fat Choy to all our friends.

Happy Chinese New Year!





# Art

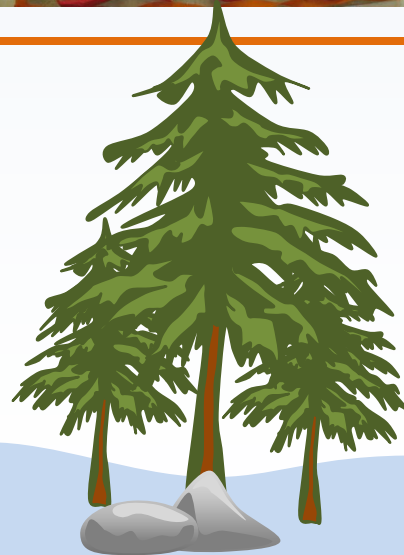
by Ms Isabel

January finally brought that winter wonder that is snow. When there was snow on the ground outdoors, the Little Flower was decorated indoors with each child's snowman and snowflakes.

This month the children practiced their skills with different media: painting, cutting, and pasting. The highlight was the participation of the Seedlings in the celebration of Chinese New Year by making a dragon craft. They used a variety of media and techniques: tempera painting with brushes and stamps, cutting, gluing and using glitter glue.

Another project the children engaged in was dip-and-dye using liquid watercolors. When learning the technique, the children also used their skills as scientists. They were able to observe how the paper absorbs the liquid color, and what happens when different colors mix. Some experimented instead with eyedroppers to observe the absorption by a coffee filter.

The children very much enjoyed making their shape collages. Typically, some of the children had a very clear idea of what they wanted to make, requiring other shapes that had not been provided. We were able to give them what they wanted, which they quickly incorporated into their unique creations.



## The Little Flower



This has been some month for the children! They know that Christmas is over but they still wanted to sing Christmas songs when they came back to school. In fact, today January 27<sup>th</sup>, as I walked past the bathroom, I heard them singing Christmas and Hanukkah songs....yes! They will sing anywhere, anytime and it is so nice to hear. It makes me very happy that they enjoy music and movement class so much.

This month we are learning the Chinese New Year Song. We dance and prance, sound off firecrackers (pop, pop, pop), bang the drums (boom, boom, boom), clang the cymbals (clang, clang, clang) and children laugh and clap all on Chinese New Year's Day.

The first time we played this song with all the musical instruments I was amazed! The children all came in with the right instruments at the right time without being told or shown.

One of the favorite movement songs is *Animal Action*. The children get to act out the animal the song tell them to do. They really enjoy it.

