



# January 2010 Newsletter



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THE WALDEN SCHOOL.COM

## The Walden School; January 2010

### Many Thanks to our Walden Families & Friends



Once again we are so pleased to be able to tell you about the kind-hearted contributions made by The Walden School families to House of Tiny Treasures during our December Community Service Project. Not only did Walden families provide a set of clothes, shoes, socks, and a toy for each of the children enrolled at the facility, but also for the siblings of those children. Forty-eight children in all had a much happier holiday thanks to our generous Walden families.

**A Special Thank You from the Walden Staff**  
Thanks to all of you who contributed to the staff holiday gifts. We are all so thrilled to have received the gift cards. Thank you also, Matt & Holly Doffing, Leigh & Matt Fox, Kevin & Elizabeth Lorber for organizing this much appreciated gift.

### Tax Information

We will provide for you, at your request, a printout of your charges and payments for the year 2009. The tax laws may have changed this year on what expenses are eligible for childcare deductions. Be sure to consult with your accountant about what you may deduct. A sign-up sheet for 2009 payment information is located at the front desk.



### MLK, Jr. Day — January 18

All children in the Kindergarten and above classes will have a school holiday on Monday, January 18 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will have special art projects in the morning to celebrate his life.



### Bill Austin's Gymnastics classes Spring Sessions



Pick up enrollment information at the office for Bill Austin's gymnastics classes. Tuition is due and payable on the first day of the spring session.

The Spring session will begin the week of January 21 and runs through May. Spaces are limited.

### Dance Costumes

Our Tap and Ballet classes will be ordering their costumes very quickly this month for the Spring Recital. If your child is enrolled in class and you have not received information about the costume, please feel free to speak with the front desk. Costume fees are posted near the bulletin board and may be paid at the office.



Will we see snow . . . again?

# January Classroom Topics

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year! Throughout January all the classes will observe the winter weather and learn about how it affects us. We will help the children learn to dress and play safely in colder and wetter weather. We will also emphasize the changes in the natural environment brought about by the cold: snow, sleet, ice, crystals, and frost. We will examine snowflakes and their hexagonal (six-sided) shape and hope for snow so we can look at the real thing! Our classrooms will start to look like the Arctic and Antarctic as we learn about bears, penguins and other cold weather animals. We ask your cooperation during the cold months in sending warm jackets and other clothing necessary for your child's health and comfort. Please label everything with your child's name so that lost items can be returned.

The shape and colors for January : **hexagon, blue, white, and gray.**

## NURSERY AND INFANTS

January sensory activities for the Nursery and Infant rooms will include activities to introduce them to the concept of cold. Nursery will play with ice cubes and feel cold water. They will enjoy painting on snowflake and snowmen cutouts. Infants will also experience the differences between warm and cold and play with ice cubes and shaved ice. We will work on coloring and painting and placing stickers on cut-outs of polar bears, stars, penguins, mittens, snowflakes, snowmen, and cups. Tasting cocoa, marshmallows and warm oatmeal will be interesting. Our reading books will be about winter as we also continue learning about shapes, colors parts of our body, and friends' names.

## TODDLERS

### **Animals and Winter**

Toddlers will:

1. Talk about how we must dress for winter weather.
2. Learn what bears and penguins look like and where they live.
3. Work on pre-academic skills such as learning animal songs and finger plays and making animals out of play-dough.
4. Work on physical skills including walking like bears and penguins, hopping like Arctic hares, and walking on a line or balance beam.

## PRESCHOOL

### **Animals and Winter**

Preschoolers will:

1. Learn about snow and snowmen..
2. Observe that all snowflakes are different.
3. Talk about different kinds of winter animals.
4. Continue working on our fine motor skills by tracing and cutting.

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### **Winter and Transportation**

Pre-Kindergarten 1 & 2 will:

1. Learn about winter and the weather changes that occur during this season
2. Learn about the properties of snow and ice with melting activities and exploring solids and liquids.
3. Learn many interesting facts about polar bears and penguins.
4. Be introduced to the letters of N, W, C, and R, and work on pre-academic skills such as one to one correspondence and ordering.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day falls on Monday, January 18.  
There will be no classes for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade.**

## KINDERGARTEN, 1st and 2nd GRADES

Alaska will be our destination of choice for the month of January. We will include map reading skills and the properties of snow and ice. Martin Luther King's birthday will be acknowledged as we honor his memory with historical facts and stories to be presented. Walden students will have a holiday on Monday, January 18. Kindergarten will be starting spelling tests and reading exercises. We will visit the library on Tuesday, January 12.

