



The Walden School January 2012 Newsletter



16103-A Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, TX 77479
(281) 980-0022 thewaldenschool.com

Many Thanks to our Walden Families and 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. Each year Walden families have opened their hearts and wallets to provide much needed items for the young children and siblings served by this small school and their homeless families. The Walden families provided an outfit with shoes and socks for each child, and a toy. Forty-four children in all had a much happier holiday thanks to your generosity.



Our Walden Staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection of funds to give each teacher here at Walden a very generous gift card from the Walden families and children. It is so appreciated, and quite useful to each one of us. A very special thank you to Holly Doffing, and Elizabeth Lorber for organizing and carrying out the purchase and distribution of the gift cards.

January 2012 Events.

- *Tues., Jan 3—First day of school for Kindergarten and above.*
- *Friday, Jan 6—Walden Spirit Day! Wear your Walden T-shirt.*
- *Week of Jan. 9—new Spring sessions begin in Gymnastics & Ballet.*
- *Tues., Jan 10—Private K-2nd grade library field trip..*
- *Mon., Jan. 16—MLK Day—no classes for Kindergarten and above.*
- *Jan.23—Happy Chinese New Year! Year of the Dragon.*



Spring Classes and Tax Information

Sugar Land Gymnastics Spring Sessions

Pick up enrollment information at the office for Sugar Land Gymnastics classes. Tuition is due and payable for the first day of the spring session which will begin the week of January 9 and ends in May. Spaces are limited.

Dance Costumes

Our Tap and Ballet classes will be ordering their costumes 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 office staff. Costume fees are posted on the bulletin board and may be paid at the office with tuition payments.

Tax Information

We will provide for you, at your request, a printout of your charges and payments for the year 2011. 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 2011 payment information is located at the front desk.



Spirit Day is
Friday, January
6th. Wear your
Walden t-shirt!

January 2012 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 in our water-table. 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 friend's names.

Toddlers

Animals and Winter

Toddlers will:

1. Talk about how we must dress for winter weather.
2. Learn about bears and penguins, 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.



Young Threes

1. We begin this month with a unit on Season's All Around. We'll be talking about the differences among seasons.
2. Talk about how we must dress for winter and other types of weather.
3. Learn about animals and how they live in cold climates.
4. Begin working on letter recognition and phonological awareness through songs, poetry, and literature experiences.

Parents who would like to help us build our dramatic play center, we would love donations of appropriate items to supplement our unit on Season's All Around. We are looking for dress-up clothing to correspond with each of the four seasons. Thank you!

Preschool

Animals and Winter

Preschoolers will:

1. Learn about snowflakes and snowmen.
2. Talk about different kinds of winter animals, i.e penguins and bears.
3. Continue working on our fine motor skills by tracing and cutting. Letters we will focus upon are P,B, and S.
4. The time has come! We will begin our "Handwriting Without Tears" this month.

Pre-Kindergarten

Winter and Polar Animals

PreK 1 and PreK 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, penguins, and other winter animals.
4. Be introduced to the letters W, S, and B, and work on pre-academic skills such as one to one correspondence and ordering.

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 16. Kindergarten will be starting spelling tests and reading exercises. Look for parent notes in the take home folders. Our library field trip will be Tuesday, January 10, from 1:15--2:30 p.m. Wear your Walden t-shirt. First grade will work on reading and generating graphs and tables in math. We will also cover some geometry which will prepare us for our future study on fractions. Second grade will continue their practice of regrouping three digit numbers in addition and subtraction. Consonant digraphs and blends, r-controlled vowels will be our focus in spelling and phonics. In science 2nd grade will explore the nature behind solids, liquids, and gases. Social Studies will focus on the first Americans, colonist, and the building of our nation.

