

January 2018

Sequoia's Treehouse



Welcome to January!

Happy New Year!

We hope you and your families had a fantastic holiday season!

Sequoia's Treehouse is happy to start the new year welcoming new friends and new teachers for the Shoots room. Our theme for January is **Winter** and each classroom has special activities planned for your little ones. Be sure to check out what they have planned!

See you at school!

Activity of the Month: Sparkly Winter Play-Dough!



Use this fun and simple project to encourage your child's creativity and to explore snow and winter time when it's just gloomy and rainy outside!

Add white glitter to the play dough recipe below, roll into different sized "snow balls" and set out with items like:

- Large and small snowflake-shaped cookie cutters
- Silver snowflake buttons/charms
- Silver tinsel pom-poms
- Snowflake confetti
- Silver tinsel stems cut into small pieces
- Clear pony beads

Basic No-Cook Play Dough

Ingredients

- 2 cups plain all-purpose flour- for a **whiter dough, substitute with cornstarch**
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- ½ cup salt
- 2 Tbsp cream of tartar
- Up to 1 ½ cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)
- Optional: a few drops of glycerin to add more shine, and food coloring, if using for other projects

Method

1. Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar, and oil in a large mixing bowl
2. Add boiling water (if you were adding a food coloring for other projects, you would add it to the boiling water before mixing with the other ingredients).
3. Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough.
4. Add the glycerin (optional).
5. Allow to cool, then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all the stickiness has gone (This is the **most important** part of the process to keep at it until it is the perfect consistency!).
6. If it continues to remain a little sticky, add a touch more flour (or cornstarch) until just right.

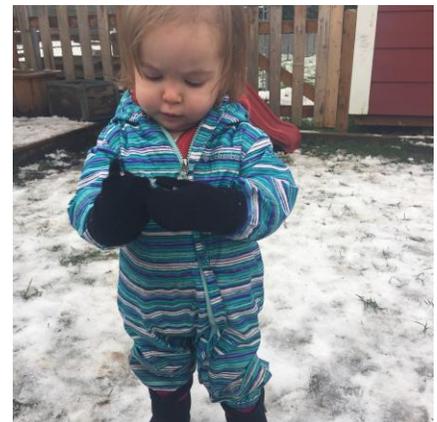
Seedling Room

<p>We've been exploring:</p>	<p>Looking forward to:</p>	<p>Happy New Year! We are welcoming January with three new friends: Gwendolyn, Delaney, and Hattie.</p> <p>This month we will explore winter and all its wonder. Please share any family traditions we can incorporate in our class and bring family photos for our family photo wall.</p> <p>-Tori and Pace</p>
<p>International holiday music Cold Travel</p>	<p>Cool colors Poems about winter</p>	



Sprouts Room

<p>We've been exploring:</p>	<p>Looking forward to:</p>	<p>Now that the holidays are over, and we are entering a new year, we would like to focus this month on winter. The children have already been exploring the weather changes by observing the frost in the mornings, but now we will take winter to a new level! We have some fun "snow" sensory activities planned and some cool art projects we are excited about.</p> <p>With the cold and wet weather, please check your child's clothes bin to make sure they have spare clothes.</p> <p>--Chylee and Eileah</p>
<p>Hanukkah and Kwanza Tissue paper and painting projects Letters: M,N,O,P</p>	<p>Snowflake sensory bags Fake snow sensory play Letters: Q,R,S,T</p>	



Shoots Room

We are so happy to finally welcome our new lead teacher Rachel Morriss, just as we also welcome the winter season!

December was spent exploring music, art, new places, and architecture. We spent a lot of time building ramps of all shapes and sizes and testing different cars around the classroom. The kids formed a band and marched around the room singing and playing instruments! We read books about bears, Alaska, the snow, and our winter friends like birds and deer for the holiday season. We drove our imaginary school bus to see new places around the world and to shop for our loved ones for the holidays! The children loved the holiday themes in dance and yoga. We have done lots of art, drawing animals and sea creatures, and have mastered many animal sounds! We have also been practicing our numbers, letters, and counting.

-Rachel and Mike

Visitors:

Debbie's Dance:
1/10

Aly Long Yoga:
1/11, 1/25

We've been exploring:

We have been making musical discoveries every morning when the kids take turns strumming the guitar and acting out their favorite instruments, and many are discovering a love for singing! It gets loud sometimes when the "band" is in full and on a classroom tour!

Drawing with markers and crayons.

Hula hooping during outside time!

Looking forward to:

Painting winter animals and hearing and playing music to different winter songs! We plan to work with some winter wildlife and will hopefully get a chance to learn about and look at different trees this winter.

We are also planning an activity with paper and cardboard that we will cut instruments out of to play all season!



Family Notes:

Please provide your child with one or two changes of clothes

It is cold! Layers are necessary, and hat and gloves are strongly recommended!

It is also very wet; please make sure your children have rain boots and rain gear if possible.

Sapling Room

Happy New Year! We're excited to welcome 2018 with new ideas and a fresh outlook on the world. December was spent reveling in the joys of the holidays and learning about celebrations from around the world. We had fun doing art, singing songs, making gifts for each other, and writing letters. During Circle Time and Table Talk we had fun talking about what made holidays special and why we liked different ones. Family and presents were common themes! We also read books and learned about different holidays like Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza. We've been continuing to work on using our words to find ways to play nicely and taking turns while talking. The children had a particularly fun month of Debbie's Dance and yoga with Aly Long, both of which brought holiday themes into the classes.

-Joe and Jenny

Visitors:

Debbie's Dance:
1/10

Aly Long Yoga:
1/11, 1/25



We've been exploring:

Music and rhythm in the form of holiday songs and Circle Time sing-a-longs.

Collaging, painting, and sculpting with play-dough.

Looking forward to:

We are deep into winter!

We are excited to explore all things winter in January. We will discover the textures and properties of snow and ice. We have experiments with both planned. We will be reading stories and singing songs of winter, and learn about what animals do to keep warm.

Family Notes

Please make sure your child has at least 2 changes of clothes at school!

It's winter! Please bring warm clothes and rain clothes (boots, jackets, pants)! Hats and Gloves are SUPER helpful to keep warm while outside.

Sequoia Room

Happy New Year!

December was a busy month! We enjoyed multiple field trips during the first two weeks of the month including swimming lessons, a play, a nature walk, and a visit to the Estuarium! We said a sad goodbye to Felix, who is on to new things, and welcomed our new friend Wyatt. December also meant a lot of time spent with the Saplings, and we really enjoy playing together!

A quick reminder to parents: it's getting even colder, so please don't forget to send your child to school with gloves and a hat!

-Jey and Tess

Trips & Visitors:

Swimming at Discover Aquatics: 1/4

Just So Stories play at Olympia Family Theatre

Nature Walk

Debbie's Dance: 1/10

Aly Long Yoga: 1/11, 1/25



We've been exploring:

Holidays around the world. We talked about our family's ways of celebrating, learned about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries, and learned about some new holidays, including a fun Hanukkah celebration!

We've been practicing counting to 50, the sounds of our letters, and counting objects to 30. We also spent some time talking about and creating patterns.

Looking forward to:

Talking about winter.

Learning about goats: our class will be learning all about how to care for goats and then will take part in going to pick the goats up! We will have pygmy goats by the end of January!

Learning about the "first sound" in a word.

Learning to recognize the numerals 11-20.