

Young Child Academy News

Nurturing Growth Through Literature & the Arts



What's New?

Sights & Sounds

In December, YCA friends investigated through our monthly theme, "**Sights & Sounds.**" We discussed the differences around the house and in our neighborhoods during this holiday season. What have you noticed? Does it look any different from the previous years? We also learned about the weather changes – snow on the first day of winter! We wish you all had a wonderful Winter Break and warmth-filled holidays.

We have sent home all of your child's extra clothes. We want you to go through them, and make sure they still fit your child! Our friends grow so fast 😊 Please remember, we **DO** go outside in the rain and snow. Anything that can help keep our friends dry - **Raincoats and boots** - will be appreciated.



December 2020

Calendar & Upcoming Events

December 23rd – January 1st
Winter Break (School Closed)

January 18th MLK Jr. Holiday (closed)

February 15th Washington's Birthday
(Closed)

Winter Learning Celebration "Ugly Sweater Party"

Hope you had time to take a nice picture at our Winter Wonderland scenery that YCA friends created together!



Check out our Ugly Sweater Party videos!!

[Ugly Sweater Party Video](#)

["Snowflakes" Song Performance](#)

Please check out our [COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#). If you are traveling or gathering with others (not in your household) during the holiday season, please complete the [YCA Travel Screening Questionnaire](#) AND bring in your child's [Negative COVID test result](#) (if your answer is [YES](#) to any of the question) before returning to School.

CLASS NEWS



The Monthly Theme was...

"Sights & Sounds"



Toddler 2

Hello, Toddler 2 Family!
We've made it through 2020!!
We had such a fun December. From splashing in rain puddles to tons of fun winter-themed art projects and going on classroom color hunts, we've definitely kept busy! Our end of the year winter celebration was a karaoke party, and it was a huge hit! Some of the kids were afraid of the microphone, but others got right up into it! We said "goodbye" to Lazaro, Caolan, Elijah, and Bruce. Our big boys are all moving up to Preschool 1 and we are so proud of them! On the other hand, we will be welcoming Madeline, Wesley, Adrian, and Emmett from Toddler 1, when we come back in January! We are very excited to introduce our new friends to our class! We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday season! See you next year!

Preschool 1

December was such a fun and exciting month. The themes revolved around the new winter season. It was a perfect time to touch on the seasons of the year again. We discussed seasons in relation to the earth and sun. There were a lot of snowmen, winter animals, and snowflakes in our activities. The kids practiced their counting with penguin erasers. They practiced their fine motor skills threading beads into pipe cleaners to make cool icicle bracelets. They made some polar bear masks and got to use them for the song "we are going on a bear hunt". Another activity they really loved was building with magnet tiles over the light table. This went with our investigation of the month; Sights and Sounds. We ended with an awesome party that included gingerbread decorating, butter cookies, hot (more like mildly warm hehe) cocoa, and so much dancing. Preschool 1 loves music and dancing! Have a marvelous break (:

Toddler 1

December was a month of snow and fun in Toddler 1. We sang songs about Frosty, had a snowball fight, and showcased our artistic talents in a collection of colorful winter outfits! Our end-of-year sweater party was an absolute hit. We rocked out to Baby Shark on the karaoke machine and decorated sugar cookies. The frosting and sprinkles were our favorite parts.

It was a bit bittersweet saying goodbye to Adrian, Emmett, Maddie, and Wesley, but we're so excited to watch them learn and grow in Toddler 2! Happy holidays and we'll see everyone in January!



Infant

Infant room welcomed our new friend Jack and said good-bye to our old pal Vik. We celebrated Vik's very first birthday with yummy donuts. We are sure that he will do great in Toddler class. Grey, Jack, and Lolo started to pull their bodies all the way up by holding a sturdy object. Madison interacts with her friends more and more, and Hayden crawls and moves around. He can clap and wave his hands. For the winter gifts, our babies made hand-printed ornaments and finger-painted reindeer holiday cards. Happy Holidays!



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Sights & Sounds

Preschool 2

Hello YCA Families!

Preschool 2 had a short but fun-filled December! We jumped right into Winter and learned all we could about Arctic animals, winter weather, and celebrations. Our monthly investigation was on sights and sounds. The kids really loved this topic and used their ears to figure out different animals, noises, and sounds. Their favorite was using X-rays and a light board to see animals and such. Our month was art-heavy so everyone enjoyed learning about light and dark shades of colors too! We are looking forward to January and learning all about Space and Sky! Happy Holidays from Preschool 2! We hope everyone has a fun and safe break.



Blair



Ady



PreK 1

Oh goodness!! It is December, and 2020 is almost over. Who is ready for a fresh start to a new year!? We certainly are! The theme this month was *Sights & Sounds*. We spent the month thinking about and planning for the upcoming holidays and season change. These kiddos worked hard using their fine motor skills to make beautiful decorations for their homes and our classroom. They made comparisons between light/dark and night/day. They discussed and wrote about their favorite activities to do at those times. They even made a snowy night time masterpiece! Then we focused on everyone's favorite topic *WINTER* (which at this age simply means *SNOW*)! They made snowmen names to decorate our entryway and penguins that live in our kitchen. One day, we even MADE snow!! Baby, it's cold in here!

These kiddos are definitely ready for the winter. Along with the art and decor we've been making, we have also been focusing on more and more letters. We have learned to write the letters J, D, P, B, R, and K. In addition to the writing, we have also focused on learning the sounds for the letters L, P and the short O sound. Wowzers, you should see the long list of words your little smarties are coming up with! The list for the letter P had **sixty-one** words all beginning with the letter P!! Geniuses I tell ya, they are all geniuses!!

Parents, as teachers we want to extend a humongous THANK YOU to every single one of you for being so thoughtful and generous to us this year. We truly appreciate your support and kindness everyday. We are all in this together, and we couldn't do it without you. We hope you have a very, very Happy Holiday, and here's to a much needed NEW YEAR!!



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PreK 2

YCA families, we did it! We made it through 2020 & we had a lot of fun here in Pre-K2 along the way. This month, we finished up our narratives, and many students (mostly those with siblings in other classes) chose to read the books they created to another class in the school. After finishing those and reading them aloud, the students now have the option to write a typical daily journal entry in their notebooks or to work on a new book. A few students chose to write new books, mostly informational texts about things they like. Some students are concurrently working on multiple different books. After our journal writing time, many students typically have some free time while others finish working on their pictures and sentences. I typically allow them to use books, puzzles, whiteboards, or games during this time. This month, however, I told them that if they do their reading right after their writing, they can relax and color for a few minutes at the end of the day when we typically have our scheduled reading time. The kids really seem to love this, and we now have a solid hour straight of reading and writing time every morning. Other than that, Decembers in Pre-K2 tend to have more art activities than previous months. The holiday gifts we created for our families took about a week to complete. The kids are really excited about them and we really hope you enjoy them. We also dove right into the winter-themed activities by making things like origami snowflakes, winter trees with sticks from the tree on our playground, pictures of our homes at night with our holiday lights to celebrate the winter solstice, and we even had a class snowball fight with some artificial snowballs!

Lastly, I just want to thank all the YCA families for supporting us and helping keep each other safe throughout 2020. I truly can't put into words how grateful I am to work within such a great community of families over this past year. I wish you all a happy holiday season and can't wait to see you back here in 2021.



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Special Class News

Japanese with Karlee

This month in Japanese we started looking at Japanese writing in the preschool and pre-k classes. We talked about the three types of characters in Japanese- hiragana, katakana, and kanji. We have been practicing tracing our names in katakana and will continue in the new year. In all of the classes, we read books about snow (yuki). We helped a bunny go skiing and a princess make a snowman using our 'magic'. We also read The Snowy Day (Yuki No Hi) and made some puffy snow art with Peter playing in the snow.



Music & Drama Class with Kiki

Hello Friends!

Music and Drama was a ton of fun this month! I wanted to mix things up a little for our winter celebration performance, so I included some simple choreography with the song that I taught everyone. I was super impressed with how well all the kids did! We also learned about adjectives (or words that describe a thing). I read them a hilarious book called "The Wonky Donkey" to help them understand, then we played a fun game where the kids got a chance to show off their acting chops! We had wiggly lions, grumpy zebras, and silly firemen, just to name a few. I kept it nice and simple in T1 and had lots of fun playing with puppets and making animal sounds. I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday break! See you next year!

Musicality with Ben

In Musicality this month we've been learning Frosty The Snowman! It's a great holiday song, and the students are having a blast stomping their feet to the "thumpity thump" part. We also got to check out a cool new special instrument this month - a harp! We learned about how the harp has 18 strings (or sometimes more!) and how each string has its own note that it plays.

Asian Folktales / Art & Science with HaeLim

In Asian Folktales Class and Art & Science, we did lots of activities related to the winter. Jingle bell hunt with a magnet stick was quite fun and jolly. Snowball fight is always a hit, and each classroom came up with their creative snowman design. Toddler friends wanted to put the carrot nose and mittens on its hat, and it was so funny! We got to see a real Matryoshka doll from Russia as we read the story called "The littlest Matryoshka." Matryoshka doll is a nesting doll that is originated from Russia, and each has a different design on its apron and a different number of dolls nesting inside the biggest one. YCA friends painted and designed their own 😊 Have a great winter break, and we will see you next year!



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Winter Learning Celebration Ugly Sweater Party



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