



**YOUNG
CHILD
ACADEMY**

January 2024 NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S NEW?

Happy New Year, YCA families! Can you believe it has already been a year since we moved to our new Greenwood facility? As we look back on the past year, we can't say thank you enough to everyone who has gone through our ups and downs together! Our Winter-themed Pajama Party was fantastic. Our teaching teams came up with some creative activities to celebrate the season. Also, parents supported us by providing the party supplies! With everyone's help, some classes played with gingerbread-scented playdough; some played with baking soda snow and made graham's cracker houses; some had delicious fruit snacks; and some played reindeer games.

Check out the video here!



REMINDERS

- ✓ Check your Procare and email for messages regarding school closures and delays in case of the inclement weather.
- ✓ Make sure your child's indoor shoes are slip on and easily cleanable.
- ✓ Don't forget to sign your child in/out every day on the iPads. These records are needed for licensing purposes.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 15th

LMLK Jr. Holiday (closed)

February 19th

Washington's Birthday
(closed)



INFANT & TODDLER 1



Toddler 1

Happy holidays to Toddler 1 students and families! It's been a great year with all our friends—we had so much fun seeing Kavya, Maisie, and Mythri grow and learn this past year. We'll miss them as they move to Toddler 2 in the new year, but we'll definitely see them around YCA! This month, we welcomed Meret and Molly from the Infant room and had so much fun with them! They're both doing well, meeting new friends and exploring their new room and activities. We had a good time exploring our snowy day theme this month; some favorite activities were our play dough party, fly swatter sensory painting, and making snowflakes from popsicle sticks. We hope you have a great holiday break, and we'll see you in the new year!



Infant



Happy New Year! We are excited to start the new year and to watch them learn and grow!

In December, our baby friends made a snowflake ornament for their families. Using a dot paint with the young friends was tricky, but it was also fun!

We welcomed Kinley and Laiken to the class. They love their teachers and friends already! They smile at their teachers and visitors, and Laiken especially likes to greet them with a loud singing voice. Ava is growing fast and getting ready to move to the Toddler 1 classroom.

We said goodbye to our friend Peyton as the new year began. She is adjusting well to her new class, and we are so proud of her!





Toddler 2 & Preschool 1

Toddler 2



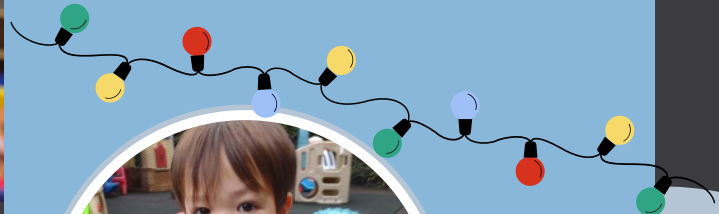
What a fun and exciting last month of the year December has been for T2. We started the month focusing on helping and sharing with the stories 'Kindness Makes Us Strong,' 'ABC's of Kindness,' and the 'Little Book of Caring.' Each kid also got to bring in their favorite toy and share it with the class. It was a great success and a great way to practice their "please" and "thank you." Being in a month of cold and rain and the investigation being Snowy Day, we spent a week learning about rain, snow, and the cold. After reading the "Little Cloud Book" and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar's First Winter," they made a giant cloud for the end of the class rainbow, made snowflake paintings with glitter, played in fake snow, chipped away at ice to rescue the Penguins and had a singing in the rain dance party. Thank you, Miles C's mom, for coming in and reading us a story about cookies and doing such a fun cookie-making playdough activity, and thank you, Maya's dad, for coming and telling us about Australia. The class also loved learning about the different animals.

This month, we said goodbye to Teacher Karlee and a few friends who moved up to Preschool. We will miss you, Millie, Miles R., Maya, and Dev. But we are excited to meet our new friends in 2024 and continue learning and exploring through play.



Preschool 1

As we look back on this last month of the year, let's look back and wonder at Preschool One's amazing achievements. We started our month strong by skating into precipitation and discovering rain and snow. The children created rain clouds and sang Rain, Rain, Go Away. We loved singing the songs from our holiday celebrations, from Jingle Bells to Frosty. We continued with family celebrations and practicing sharing and giving. Finally, we explored seasons and the amazing changes that happen every year. This month, we worked hard on turn-taking games like Pass the Present and Parachute. Our favorite book this month was Journey by Aaron Becker. Thank you for this wonderful year; we are all so excited for next year.



❖❖❖ PRESCHOOL 2 & PRE-K



Pre-K

This month's theme was The Snowy Day, which focused on precipitation, seasons, and family celebrations. Pre-K spent this month doing fun winter-themed crafts and activities like making snowflake ornaments, fake snow, and reindeer. We also focused on the letters P, F, and O and made letter crafts for these. We also learned about a couple of countries, such as Australia and Ghana. I hope everyone enjoys the holiday break, and I look forward to more exciting adventures with the class in the coming year!



Preschool 2

Happy winter solstice! We had a great December in P2. This month's theme was The Snowy Day, and we learned about seasons, precipitation, and winter. We made lots of snowflakes and snowpeople while working hard on using scissors and other fine motor skills. We also did some fun science experiments, making fake snow and using shaving cream and colored water to explore rain. The class is getting good at following multi-step instructions so we can work on more elaborate projects! We also discussed celebrations and family traditions and had fun making presents for families. We're incorporating more math concepts and working hard on counting numbers and pattern-making. We even started talking about fractions! It's been so much fun watching everyone grow their brains, and we can't wait to see what next year will bring. Have a great vacation, and we'll see you in 2024!

Special Class News ✨

Art with Tiffany

We used star stickers, salt, and watercolors this December to make beautiful night sky paintings. We followed it up by making colorful bobble hats and mittens as the weather grew colder. We also learned about paper quilling and used our pieces of curled paper to craft winter trees. Finally, we finished the month using metallic paint and watercolor to make shining stars, except for preschool 1. They've been asking me for a month whether we could make snow monsters, so we did! They got to attach all the arms, legs, and eyes they wanted and were so excited to show me their "elephant monster," "upside-down monster," and "really big monster." I can't wait for more art projects after the break!

Musicality with Ben



Music & Movement with Keisha

Happy New Year! December was such a fun month in music and movement. We sang songs about rain, danced to music from the Nutcracker ballet, and learned about a dance called the waltz using the piece "Skater's Waltz" by Emil Waldteufel. The younger classes also loved hearing "Singing in the Rain" and doing the fingerplay song "Snowflakes Snowflakes all Around." Everyone got to practice their throwing, catching, and aiming skills by throwing fake snowballs into a bucket and (gently) at me! I look forward to exploring more cold weather/winter themes through January.

Spanish with Gaby

¡Hola!

In the spirit of the season, our students embraced the magic of December with engaging activities. Learning about the seasons in Spanish through reading and coloring. We shared holiday traditions, focusing on the symbolic meaning of "piñatas." Here, breaking the piñata became a powerful metaphor—shattering negativity and welcoming positivity with each festive crack. As we bid farewell to the year, I extend warm wishes to all our families for a holiday season filled with joy and the promise of brighter days ahead. Happy Holidays!



