This month in our classroom:

We start our month with some winter fun! We'll graph what we wear to keep our hands warm (mittens or gloves) and read *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow*. We will fall like fast and slow snowflakes as we listen to music, then build snowmen on paper. We will paint with ice, build with ice, and color ice with droppers. The classic tale of Goldilocks is up next, as we hear the story three different ways and practice sequencing big, medium, and small.

That brings us to bears and hibernation! We'll avoid waking up any bears, and see where our dreams take us as we read *Sleepy Bears* by Mem Fox. We will prepare ourselves for hibernation with a PJ party, complete with our own teddy bears, and bake up some yummy hot cocoa cookies!

Our letters this month
- Ll...for ice
- Bb...for bear
- Hh...for hibernation and hot cocoa

Spring Conferences
Throughout January and February we will be doing assessments (which your kids will see as games!) to prepare for spring conferences. These conferences will give us the chance to celebrate accomplishments, share areas of improvement, and discuss any concerns we may have, and you'll have a chance to ask us questions.

Conferences will take place in late February. Watch for sign ups to be posted later this month!

Family Fun with Snowmen!
On Friday 1/10 we will send home a snowman for you and your family to create! We will read "Snowballs" by Lois Elhert in class and talk about all the materials you could use to build a snowman (buttons, yarn, sequins, aluminum foil, etc). At home, you and your child can find goodies around the house that you could use to create your own special snowman. Bring the completed snowman back the following week so we can display all of our Building Blocks snowmen!

This activity is meant to create a bridge between our classroom and your home. We hope you and your family enjoy building your own special snowman, and that it offers a special experience for your child to share with us!
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December in Building Blocks

In music we marched like toy soldiers and we twirled like ballerinas as we listened to the story of the Nutcracker, as told by the music of Tchaikovsky. When Clara and the Prince visited the Land of the Sweets we drew pictures of the sweets we heard dancing in the music. We also watched a video of the sugar plum fairy's dance!

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Five Little Trees

Five little trees were standing all alone
Their hearts were sad 'cause they hadn't found a home.
Then chop when the ax
And down came a tree
And off went a happy family!
Four little trees...
Three little trees...
Two little trees...

---

3-2-1 blast off!
For our cooking activity we made galaxy smoothies, layering blended fruits and yogurt and sprinkling stars to make a treat that was out of this

Galaxy Smoothies

White layer
3/4 cup vanilla yogurt
1 banana

Blue layer
3/4 cup vanilla yogurt
1 banana
1/4 cup blueberries

Purple layer
3/4 cup vanilla yogurt
1/2 cup mixed berries

Blend each layer until smooth. Pour each layer into a clear cup, starting with the thickest. Add star sprinkles on top. Enjoy!

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Some of the books we read this month:

Laura's Star by Klaus Baumgart
There was a Bold Lady who Wanted a Star by Charise Mericle Harper
On the Moon by Anna Milbourne
The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers
How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss
Who Will Guide My Sleigh Tonight by Jerry Palotta
Moose tooe by Margie Palatini