

# Playful Wonders After-School



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## February 2020 Newsletter

### Playful Wonders After-School Enrichment Program

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### Gentle Reminders:

- ◆ Children **Absent** from School or **Not Attending After-School**, Please let us know before 2 pm.
- ◆ **Sessions end at 6:00 pm**. If you will be late picking up, please call us & arrange for your emergency contact to pick up your child.
- ◆ Children must be dressed in appropriate winter attire to play outdoors.

### PW Closed:

- ◆ Monday, February 17 through Friday, February 21: Winter Recess

### Looking Back:

#### Dear Parents,

In the month of January, our younger Playful Wonders children learned about **Arctic Animals and their habitats** through fun stories, arts and crafts and hands-on activities. Children explored the meaning of interesting vocabulary words such as "buoyancy" and "blubber" through two stimulating experiments. Other enjoyable topics included: **Winter Sports, Dr. Martin Luther King & Lunar New Year**.

PW's **Artist in Residence, Kathy Nesi**, piqued the older children's interest with the "art" of drawing on Friday, 1/24. Children played a game called **"Don't Cross the Lines"** using thin markers to fill in a canvas with lines & shapes without crossing over anything they created on the canvas. We added details such as patterns, antennae, fur, claws, etc and ended up with a **"wild rumpus of a canvas of art."** The art lesson was a clever exercise to think & draw without worrying about the "right" or "wrong" way of producing art.

Playful Wonders preserves enrichment through continuously supporting the idea of inclusion and acceptance of all cultures and traditions around the world. The children celebrated the **Lunar Year** with all grades that included **Chinese Fans, Dragon Masks, Dancing Dragons, and Free-Hand Watercolor Dragon Drawings**.

### Looking Forward:

In February our younger children will explore several **books** accompanied by **dramatic play & art expressions**. Play based themes for this month include the following: **Valentines' Day; and Presidents Lincoln & Washington**.

In honor of **Valentine's Day**, we celebrate love & friendships through **team building exercises**, and games that **encourage children to work together and celebrate everyone's strengths**. We believe that team building experiences is another important way to stimulate growth & development.

We welcome new activities this month. On **Friday, 2/7**, we have **The Body Blueprint (TBB)**, a boutique gym in Pelham, offers a kids' program that aims to develop overall athleticism and proper movement mechanics. Children's instructor, **Lou Charles Fundales**, will lead grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in a **variety of fitness drills**.

The children have expressed a robust interest in drawing figures & scenes so we asked **Artist, Kathy Nesi**, to return on **Friday, 2/28**, with a next level drawing project.

*See Pictures of the children having fun throughout the month of January on the next page...*



# Playful Wonders After-School

*Playful Wonders had a special guest appearance by veteran PW staff member, Gerardo, who is currently enlisted in the US Marine Corps. We love you, Gerardo! Happiest of Birthdays to Mrs. O'Connell!*



*January special events: Artist, Kathy Nesi, presented a thoughtful game-style art project; children designed their own optical illusions, snow globes, and watercolor dragons.*

