



February in the Tadpoles Room

The Gillen Brewer School

The Tadpoles Create Sensory Alphabet Books

The Tadpoles have been hard at work on their Sensory Alphabet books. Throughout the month of February, they have been exploring letters in a multisensory way. The teachers have blended a variety of approaches to introduce and solidify sound/letter correspondence. Each week, two new letters are introduced. These letters are first introduced phonetically. The children play sound games that require them to group various pictures that begin with the same initial sound as the letter they are studying. We have also begun creating an “alphabet wall” in the classroom with collages of pictures that start with the same initial sound as the corresponding letter.

The Tadpoles are learning about the physical forma-

tion of the letter using the Handwriting Without Tears wood pieces, which they are familiar with from “Hands Time”. Using the various wood pieces, they practice forming the letters on the blue HWT mat. Although they may not yet be ready to write the letter, this approach is a precursor to actual handwriting.

Finally, the Tadpoles are creating “letter pages” for their Sensory Alphabet Books. They cover each letter with a material that begins with the same initial sound as the letter they are working on. For instance, they covered the letter G with “glitter glue”.

These activities have really helped to build awareness of letters and sounds. Upon completion of their books, they will be bringing them home to share with

you! Please look over them at home and let them show you their work!



Sander reaches into the “sound sack” to get picture for the letter game.



Marley glues cotton balls on to her letter “C”.

Valentine’s Day Mixer



The Tadpoles celebrated Valentine’s Day by attending a “mixer” with the Lion Cubs and Sprouts classes. The children met downstairs in the beautifully decorated gym where Robert, Dana and Jeanie led some dancing and games. A mini

talent show was also held where the group performed one of their favorite songs, “I’ve Got the Music in Me”, for their peers. Following the dancing, the group shared a community snack together in the art room.

Troy and Tommy dance at the mixer!



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Special points of interest:

- *Guest Reader Days will be held throughout the month of April. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and baby-sitters are welcome to come in! Details to follow.*
- *Grandparents Day will be March 28. This will also be a half day.*

February Birthdays

Sander
2/3



Harry
2/1



Tommy
2/28





Finally-It snows in NYC!

Finally-after spending all of that time learning about snow and ice, the Tadpoles got to experience it first hand! Just when we thought winter was going to miss us this year, a little snow blew in. We had so much fun putting on our boots and snow gear and trekking around the roof top. The children made many relevant observations about the snow based on what we had learned throughout our unit. When

asked if we should bring some snow inside to play, they all exclaimed, “NOOOOOO!” Tommy said, “It will melt if we take it inside!” We took some snow in just to double check, and sure enough it did melt! The children enjoyed packing what little snow we had into snowballs and tossing them around the roof-top. They can’t wait for more!



Babies, Babies and More Babies!



In preparation for Caroline’s impending maternity leave and the birth of Hannah’s new sibling, in addition to an overall interest in everything “baby”, the Tadpoles will be learn-

ing about babies throughout the rest of March and April. With three other teachers pregnant at GB (including Donna, who just had her

baby), the children have been exposed to many growing bellies! We will be exploring how babies grow (from inside their mother’s bellies to when they are outside in the world). We will also be looking at babies on a personal level; what were they themselves like as babies? What can they do now that they could not do when they were little? Additionally, we will be learning about the care of babies. Each child will have their own “baby” doll, kept in the “nursery” (pretend area). They will have the opportunity to role play as parents, bathing, changing its diaper, dressing and feeding their baby.

We will also be touching on animal babies as spring approaches. We will be looking at how animal mothers care for their babies, and examining the similarities and differences of these relationships.

Donna and Robert Have a Baby Boy!



Donna and Robert welcomed their new baby boy, Finton Robert Kennedy, on March 3rd. The baby is 9 lbs., 1 oz. and is 21.5 inches long. After a long labor, all are home and feeling well!



Harry asked to take a turn feeling Caroline’s belly to see if the baby is kicking!

Marisa to Start in the Tadpoles Room!

We welcome Marisa Narog, who will be replacing Caroline throughout her maternity leave. She will begin coming into the Tadpole’s class one day a week starting the last two weeks in March. In April, she will come on full time to be prepared for a smooth transition in May, or if any unexpected surprises come before then!

