T.W.A.S.

**March 13, 2015**

Good news!! We wanted to let you know that our classroom website and blog has been updated and published and is ready for you to view and explore. Yay!! Please take some time over the holiday to check it out at <http://kbkindergarten.weebly.com>

You can find past and current copies of TWAS, notes sent home, calendars, our daily schedule, upcoming events, Forest School info, and photos and slide shows from some of our adventures. Please note that we will be posting our weekly news (TWAS) on this website after March Break rather than sending a paper copy home. If you do not have access to the Internet, let us know. We hope you take some time to visit this site on a regular basis with your child. Our hope is that it will provide you some insights into your child’s days at school and provide your child with the prompts they need to engage in a conversation with you about what they did at school. We believe strongly in the principle that parents and teachers are partners in education and hope you enjoy our efforts to help make your child’s learning visible for you.

Meanwhile, below is a glimpse of this week in KB.

**Literacy and Math:** We learned about Polar Animals this week and read lots of non-fiction books about penguins, polar bears, and whales. We also read books about Antarctica and the Arctic and looked at a world map and globe to learn where the North and South Pole are. We learned about many of the different kinds of animals that live in the Arctic and about the culture and lifestyle of some of the people who live there. The children were really interested in this topic and freely chose to explore it more deeply during activity time. Some students wanted to copy the water colour paintings from the story *Pipaluk and the Whales*. Others chose to make orca, beluga, and blue whales. We looked up images on line to try to create the parts as accurately as possible. We also learned that there are 17 different species of penguins and then we made a life size Emperor Penguin and a life-size Fairy Penguin. We compared ourselves to them to see which was taller. The Emperor Penguin was taller than ¾ of our class at 4 feet. We compared fiction and non-fiction books to see which ones had true information and which ones were “stories”. We noticed that non-fiction books have real photographs and stories have illustrations. Many students discovered that they really prefer non-fiction books because they “like learning stuff!” The students enjoyed rolling dice and feeding that many fish to the polar bears and penguins. They made polar animal lists, mini-books, pictures, and crafts. We learned what a caption is and practiced writing captions for photographs. We read leveled books and learned that “reading” means looking at the picture cues and telling what might be happening even when we can’t read the words. We discovered though that leveled books have patterns, sight words, and picture words so we can actually read them!! It was a fun week and will likely capture some students’ attention for further exploration after the break.

Forest School: We enjoyed the beautiful warm sunny days this week and spent as much time outside as possible. The students were so creative. They made polar animal homes with the ocean, and icebergs, and caves. They sculpted penguins out of snow and slid them down the hill. They pretended they were penguins and slid down the hill on their bellies. Some made an ice cream shop, others made bird feeders, and one group made a marble track in the snow with a big snowball for the marble. Another group made a giant hot tub, and one group made a salamander trap, and others used ropes and pulleys to make a walrus and whale rescue station. It was really fun to watch what they would come up with. We simply offer them materials (rope, pulleys, markers, paper, cardboard, lard, bird seed, scissors, fabric, shovels, buckets, to name a few) and they choose what to do with them or whether to use them at all. Children are intensely imaginative and hard-wired for play so this comes easily for many of them.

We set up the “slack-line” (low ropes “tight-rope” element) this week and the kids had a chance to practice walking on it. They loved it and were remarkably good at it. They cheered each other on and did a great job complimenting each other.

**Reminders/Notices:**

* We went to the library today because we didn’t get there yesterday. Our next library day is March 26th.
* Please add poems sent home to your child’s poem book and practice them often. Shared Reading is an important first step in beginning to read.
* Please encourage your child to practice their sight word rings or alphabet rings over the holidays so they don’t forget.
* Remember to send back your child’s Number Booklet when they have finished practicing all their numbers. We practice daily and are still noticing reversals and confusion about how to form numbers. We appreciate your help with this at home.
* Book Fair on March 25, 26, 27
* No school from March 16-20 because of March Break. Enjoy!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day on the 17th and have a lovely break with your family. We hope it is restful and relaxing and that everyone is able to get lots of sleep to boost their immunity and get healthy again ☺!

Have a great week,

Ms. Ferren, Ms. Hewitt, and Ms. Bain