March 6, 2015

Dear KB Families,

Our Hibernation Day on Wednesday was a lot of fun!

The students looked so cute in their PJ’s and they loved carrying their hibernating animals around all day. Thank you for helping make it special.

In the morning, the students introduced the hibernating animal they brought to school and we read some non-fiction hibernation books and compared them to some of the fiction stories we read. We sorted a big pile of stuffed animals into: migrates, insulates, and hibernates. We made lists of hibernating animals and we drew picture of hibernating animals. During our Outdoor Learning block, we were visited by the conductor from the story Hibernation Station. He led us into the forest in search of a place for all of us to build a hibernating shelter. We hung tarps in the trees and created a big space for all of us to curl up and sleep. Then, the “winter” (or insulating) animals (Ms. Ferren, Ms. Hewitt, Ms. Bain) showed up to our den/lair/cave/burrow and had a party while we were sleeping, just like the story Bear Snores On. They made a fire and brewed hot chocolate, and popped corn, and ate trail mix. They were so noisy they woke us up but they brought enough for all of us to join the party too so we all enjoyed hot chocolate, popcorn, and trail mix in our den/cave/burrow in the forest. It was lovely!

In the afternoon, we came back inside and made “cupcaves” (Teddy Grahams baked inside cupcakes) and watched Bear Snores On – the animated version while we ate lunch. Then, we played a rhyming game where the students had to curl up and pretend they were hibernating until they heard 2 words that rhymed at which point they would wake up and sit up. We did this with syllables as well. Then, we made indoor dens, and burrows with tarps, tables, chairs, blankets, and pillows and the students curled up inside with books for some quiet time. Every once in a while, they were asked to peek their heads out of their den to check the thermometer. If the temperature was above 15 degrees, they were supposed to wake up slowly, stretch and begin their search for food. The students crawled around the classroom and gasped with surprise when they discovered cupcakes hidden all over the room. Each student found one cupcake and curled up in a safe place away from predators to eat it. At the end of the day, we reflected on our learning and experience. The students decided hibernating was fun but hard.

Before going home, we shared our 100 Day collections and the hung them up on our bulletin board.

Winter Fun Day was a huge hit. The students were paired with a buddy from our class and participated on a team with students from all other grades. They played outside all afternoon at a variety of snow-based activities similar to those that we do each day. They loved it!!

It was a great week! Next week is our last week before March Break (March 14-22). We will go to the library on Thursday March 12th and our last skating day is Wednesday March 11th.

Have a lovely weekend at home and don’t forget to turn your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night.

☺ The KB Kinder Team