

# GBC NEWS

“Think of playtime like an innovation lab where tomorrow’s civilization is being actively designed.”  
– Jordan Shapiro



## A Note From Katie & Krissy:

Thank you to all of our families who participated in *GB Gives Back* this winter by donating non-perishables. Donations went to *A Safe Haven Foundation*. During the month of March we will be collecting adult and children’s clothing to donate to a local shelter. Please bring your gently used items to Ms. Allison & Ms. Deb.

Thank you to our Sprouts families for attending our family breakfast on the 15<sup>th</sup>! Great turn out! The **Buds Family Breakfast** will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the **Blossoms Family Breakfast** *date TBD* in April, and the **Seedling Family Breakfast** *date TBD* in May

**GB will be CLOSED** on the following dates:

- **Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday April 17<sup>th</sup>**



## Parent Resource Corner Early Childhood Development Websites to Check Out:

*HealthyChildren.org*

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

## Congratulations to our growing families!

### GB’S NEWEST

#### BIG BROTHERS & SISTERS

Jack welcomed baby sister **Anna**

James welcomed baby brother **George**

Royal welcomed baby brother **Dodger**

Nora welcomed baby brother **Daniel**

and baby sister **Anna**

## GB’s New Faces:

Look who joined us this winter!



Sloane  
Seedling



Devin  
Seedling



Lucille  
Seedling



George  
Seedling



JP  
Seedling



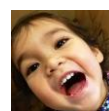
Maximus  
Seedling



Max  
Seedling



Iris  
Seedling



Shay  
Sprout



Royal  
Sprout



Alexander  
Sprout

## Winter Birthdays

- 12/02- Ms. Camiah's birthday
- 12/04- Ms. Crystal's birthday
- 12/04- Ms. Devon's birthday
- 12/14- Meera's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- 1/04- Michael's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 1/07- Noah's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 1/10- Ms. Juliet's birthday
- 1/15- Sochi's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- 1/24- Fulton's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- 1/28- Nathaniel's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday
- 2/04- Ms. Cookie's birthday
- 2/18- Conor's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday
- 2/22- Emma's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday



## Seedlings

Ms. Larrita, Ms. Juliet, Ms. Camiah, Ms. Crystal

Seedlings ended 2016 with many great activities and continued into the New Year as very busy Seedlings! In December, for language, Seedlings used their sense of hearing to listen to the story "Christmas is Love". Seedlings also looked at pictures of Christmas trees, presents, and families decorating for the holidays. Art was fun, as Seedlings decorated Christmas trees using broccoli dipped in paint. For science, Seedlings explored the sticky back of gift bows and stuck them on a glass window. As for our sensory activities, Seedlings explored bows in the sensory table, and looked at glitter floating in water inside of sensory bottles. During our morning movement exercises, Seedlings practiced the "bicycle push" along with soft play while crawling over boppy pillows.

During the month of January, Seedlings learned about body parts. To encourage language development, teachers pointed to Seedlings' body parts and named each part. During dramatic play, Seedlings observed as teachers pointed to the body parts of a baby doll (nose, toes, cheeks, chin, ears). We also played with Mr. Potato Head, and placed different body parts on while naming each part. During our cognitive activities, Seedlings explored sensory bottles and yellow squares taped to the floor. As for art, Seedlings made snowmen using circle shapes and white paint. Lastly, for science, Seedlings had a blast experiencing the coldness of ice! Winter was fun, but we are ready for Spring!



## Sprouts

Ms. Jisela, Ms. Lilly, & Ms. Sharlene

The cold did not stop our Sprouts from exploring this winter! Even though some of the very chilly days kept us indoors, the Sprouts were still able to experience winter as teachers brought snow and ice to the sensory table to explore. Teachers expanded on the Sprouts' observations by asking them about the color and temperature of the snow. The Sprouts watched in amazement as the ice and snow melted into water before their eyes!

We also stayed active at all times this winter by exercising and putting our learned yoga poses into action. Downward dog, tree, and airplane poses are our favorites!

As our room grows, we continue to enjoy each other's company through key social skills. We learn to use our words, practice sharing, and discover how to work together. The Sprouts room is looking forward to continuing to grow as we head toward Spring!



## Buds

Ms. Judy & Ms. Janet

The Buds welcomed winter with a bit more learning and a bit more growing. We set off on our Winter Wonderland Journey discovering winter hands-on by playing with snow and ice! We even painted big blocks of frozen ice - what frigid fun! We worked on numbers as we counted snowflakes, and reviewed colors as we matched up mittens. The class loved making snowmen while singing *Frosty the Snowman*, and of course enjoyed singing and dancing to *Let It Go*.

Another topic we focused on this winter was *germs*! We read "Germs Are Not For Sharing" to kick off our discussions. We also have been given many lessons on how to wash our hands, blow our noses, and how to sneeze into the crook of our elbow to avoid spreading germs. We have also been talking about the importance of getting plenty of sleep and keeping our bodies hydrated with lots of water.

One of our ongoing goals for the Buds classroom is to help the children develop the skills to function independently as they grow into soon-to-be preschool students. Please help us with this by working together with us at drop-off by following through with school routines (i.e. shoes, jackets, bathroom). Following through at home with certain routines - especially potty training - will set your child up for success!

At home it's important to also build responsibility with chores. Encourage your child to be responsible by giving him/her regular chores around the house. The kids will feel good pitching in, and their self-esteem will blossom. Look for that huge smile they will be giving you as they glow with pride! Remember that your Bud's idea of how to complete a chore may look different from yours. Make it fun!



## Blossoms

Ms. Devon & Ms. Emily

The Blossoms participated in two author studies during the winter season. We read stories by Jan Brett (*Annie and the Wild Animals*, *The Mitten*, and *The Hat*) and Ezra Jack Keats (*The Snowy Day*, *Peter's Chair*, *Whistle for Willie*). Both authors inspired the Blossoms to try new activities! Since Keats' pages are often filled with collage art, the Blossoms used wallpaper samples and recycled paper to create their own unique collages. And, since Jan Brett offers her recipe for Corn Cakes at the end of *Annie and the Wild Animals*, the kids made their own batch of corn cakes to go along with the story.

Hibernation, migration, and adaptation were also topics of conversation in the Blossoms room! The kids enjoyed working with tree trunk rounds, fabric leaves, pinecones, stones, and plastic animals to create shelters for their winter animals. Stories and discussion led the way for outdoor observations. The kids were quick to locate cozy nests and holes in tree trunks during our outdoor walks. We look forward to observing signs of Spring soon!

