



Specials

Animal Ambassador

Ms. Lynda brought in Ande, a 11 year old Chinchilla. We touched Ande using our science fingers (two fingers up) and described what it felt like. A fun fact about Chinchilla is that they take baths by rolling in dust!



We, also, visited the two Capybaras in December. Capybara is the largest living rodent in the world. We didn't know we have two of them! They are sisters, Siren and Rosie. We visited Siren in her holding where keepers prepare food for the animals. She likes to eat veggies! Then we watched Ms. Shanna feed Rosie next. Ms. Shanna tossed the bamboo in the pond and as soon as she called Rosie, she immediately came over and enjoyed eating her special treat.

Behind-the-Scenes in the Rainforest

We went to the Rainforest for a Keeper's Talk with Ms. Shanna. We were the first ones to see the baby Ocelot, Amara, age 2.5 years old. The Preschoolers got to see the baby before it was even announced to the public! How awesome is that? Ms. Shanna informed us that Amara is shy and may not come out, but she did! Everyone got a chance to take a closer look and even took amazing photos with mommy, Ayla.

Fun fact about Ocelots, shrimp is a food favorite!



We prepared an animal enrichment for our two beautiful Macaws, Gracie and Scootz. The kids filled paper bags with cheerios and animal crackers. Ms. Shanna had the Macaws make different sounds as she gave them treats. Gracie played peekaboo and even danced for us! We saw how strong their beaks are when they opened a piece of walnut.

Visiting Experts

Remember that awesome painting that Candy Ann, the mule, made for the children? Well, Ms. Lindsay came in and helped frame it using nature items that were found on the Zoo grounds! She, also, helped the kids decorate holiday hats using foam animals and wrote their names in glitter. Ms. Lindsay is always so creative and fun to do art projects with.



Paddy's grandma, Ms. Kathy, came in and helped the kids make reindeer ornaments! The reindeer ornaments were made from clothes pins, ribbon and felt fabric. They turned out great and it was such a festive project! The kiddos even got to pick out their favorite holiday box to put the ornament in.

Ms. MJ taught the kids an upbeat holiday dance using pom-pom. They danced to the tune of 'Jingle Bells'. The best part of learning this fun holiday dance? They got to show it off to their book buddies!



Socials Snowflake Day Party!!

The kids gave our guests a great performance of the "Ring the Bell" using real bells. With the help of Ms. Camilla (Finn's mom), the kids presented a holiday story and acted out parts of the story for everyone. Great holiday performances done by all! During the party the kids worked in teams and played a relay game.

They showed great teamwork and sportsmanship!

The Preschool class celebrates a holiday tradition of 'gift giving' for the animals. With the help of their families the kids wrapped gifts for the animals at the zoo. The kids presented the wrapped gifts to Ms. Shanna at the party! She's the Rainforest Keeper at the Rainforest.



This was our biggest party yet! It was so wonderful to be able to celebrate with so many of our friends and family members!



Holiday party with Book Buddies!!

The kids and their book buddies put final touches on their animal ornaments and then had a party. They celebrated by exchanging gifts with each other. Then the kiddos served them the yummy, festive cupcakes that they made.

Such a fun day celebrating with our Book Buddies.



Cooking with Ms. Anna

We made vanilla cupcakes this month! Such a yummy treat!



The kids made Gingerbread cookies with Sam's mom, Ms. Sandy. They were crunchy and delicious. The kids got to take some of the cookies home to decorate!

Shout Outs



Happy Birthday, Ms. Peggy!

Thank you to Mystery Readers: Brian, Krista, Camilla, and Ms. Rose!



Thank you for the festive decorations: Caitlin and Ethan!