Dear Families;

The Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes are drawn from traditional classics for young children. These tales convey values that transcend time and cultural boundaries. They celebrate beauty, joy, the mystery and magic of earth, patience, generosity, gentleness and mercy. They condemn pride, envy, laziness, selfishness and cruelty. They hold the hope that goodness cannot, in the long run, be overcome. We emphasize and talk about what is real and what is pretend. We tell the children that when a story begins with the words “Once Upon A Time” that the story is make believe.

For this month’s theme of Fairy Tales and Nursery Rhymes, the Three’s Team chose the stories that had the number three in them! We focused on “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”, “The Three Little Bears” and The “Three Little Pigs”. You know how the Threes are all about being number “3”! These stories were our main emphasis, but we also included “Jack and the Beanstalk”, “Little Miss Muffet”, “Jack Jumped Over the Candlestick”, “Humpty Dumpty” and “Jack and Jill”.

The children heard the stories in several formats, touching upon varied styles of learning--auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. The children had opportunities to hear the stories, look at the books, watch the story being told on the felt board, use puppets, reenact the stories with props, and sing songs during Circle Time.

In the Discovery Area and the Blue and Red Rooms, the children could also choose to re-enact the stories using soft toys representing each story, puzzles, puppets shows, and through art projects, like building the pigs’ houses. All of the choices were available for many days. Some of the children made the choice to perform, while others enjoyed being the audience. Each part is as important as the other.

We develop our lessons to incorporate the six domains of development. We encourage children to participate by role-playing for building self-esteem and taking turns, aiding in interaction and cooperation. Having the children retell the story and learn new songs and rhymes heightens language development and furthers cognitive learning. We sorted bears, chairs and beds by size ordering, and compared straw, sticks and bricks. We also put together different nursery rhyme puzzles. In the area of physical growth, the children had to practice walking on the steps and over the bridge when enacting “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”. We balanced ourselves on a tuffet, while eating curds and whey like Little Miss Muffet. Then we used our fine motor skills for cutting straw and gluing the three pigs’ houses.
together. Finally for, in the sixth domain of Artistic Expression and Appreciation, the children enjoyed recording their voices for a CD that we sent home for the family to enjoy. We also used props to help the child pretend to be the different characters that they wanted to be when reenacting the different stories.

During the month of December, we celebrated Isaac Lott’s birthday in the A.M. and his brother Alex read the story “If You Give A Pig A Party”. We celebrated Anna Morowitz’s birthday in the P.M. and her mother read the story, “I Got Two Dogs”. We all ate pancakes with Isaac and muffins with Anna.

Enjoy the pictures of our learning! Have a relaxing, warm and safe Winter Break! We will see you on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. We all want to say Good-Bye to Rintaro Kawada and his parents. We will miss you. Just a reminder to bring in snow gear when we return!