Dear Families,

Our theme for the month of December was **Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales**. After discussing the difference between real and pretend, we provided the children many opportunities to use their imaginations. We practiced reciting and singing many classic Nursery Rhymes and enacted several. The children were especially interested in two books. In the *Nursery Rhyme Peek-a-Book* by Eric Hill, they had to guess what rhyme matched the clues. *Peter, Peter, Pizza Eater* by Bruce Lansky is a book filled with parodies of the classic rhymes, such as “Mary Had A Little Jam.” We read the fairy tales *Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs, The Three Bears, Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin* and many more. The children were exposed to several different versions of the same stories and were then given the opportunity to discuss similarities and differences between the versions. The dramatic play center was transformed into a castle, with many props and costumes. We decorated the outside castle with flags and a drawbridge. The children created their own magic wands using paper, ribbons and bells. We also created a shoe store complete with cash register and play money, and actual shoes and boots to try on. The children decorated the shoe store with many different color “slippers” that we traced, cut, and sprinkled with glitter. A stage in the block area was used to tell and retell many times the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears! Other activities for the theme included creating Miss Muffet’s spider, polishing pennies for the shoe store, inventing original fairy tales, creating a throne for the castle, and using puppets to retell some of the stories. The children played the *Cinderella’s Lost Slipper Game* in which the children take off one shoe and cover their eyes as the teacher hides the shoes. The children then try to find their own shoe and return to the circle to play again. We played many other small and large group games, assembled a nursery rhyme book to share at home and made delicious Vegetable Soup for Ms. V. We also recorded a CD of the children singing some of their favorite songs to be given as a gift from the teachers. We hope you enjoy listening to the music!
Our letter people this month were Mr. Z with the Zipping Zippers, Mr. S with the Super Socks, and Ms. V with the vegetable covered vest.

Our Special Visitors this month included Ms. Laurel, Children’s Librarian from the Carnegie Library, and Keepon, a cute, little yellow robot who responds to the children’s movement. We also participated in an interactive light show.

A special thanks goes to the families of Julia, Ryan, Kabir, Mack and Harrison who came to share stories and a birthday snack in the Green Room. Happy Birthday friends!

We are sad to say goodbye to Elif, Sang Tae and their families, who are moving at the end of this semester. Best wishes to them! We will all miss Elif and Sang Tae’s presence in the classroom.
Important Reminders:

*Please remember to dress your child in outerwear appropriate for cold and snowy weather. Also remember to write children’s names on the clothing.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and happy Winter Break. We’ll see you in the New Year!

The Green Room Team

Mrs. Bird, Miss Mangan, Mrs. McGillen, Mrs. Opferman, and Mrs. Solomon