



# HeartPrints

Center for Early Education



## December 2018

## Newsletter

### December News

#### Important Dates:

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>: Return to school

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>: Photo Day

Jan 17<sup>th</sup>: Winterfest 9:30-12:00- No afternoon programs

Jan 21<sup>st</sup>: No School MLK Day- Teacher in-service

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>: No School- Parent/Teacher conferences 8:00 am- 6:00 pm



December has been the month of giving. Heart Prints received \$4,340 from Give Big Pittsburgh on Giving Tuesday. Thank you all for your generosity and donations for our school. We also have received two grants this month. \$500 was donated from Wellman-Prozan Fund and \$1,700 was donated from John R. and Margaret S. McCartan Charitable Fund. These grants will be used to support our Sensory Garden Project. The funding will be used towards creating a music center in our forest area. The Pittsburgh Foundation Wishbook highlighted our Sensory Garden. The Wishbook is located in our lobby area for anyone who would like to view this information.



## What happened at Heart Prints in December?

Classroom 1 has been partaking in lots of building opportunities this month. The students were given different materials to build their own robots. They used plastic cups, aluminum foil, and pipe cleaners. The students have also been practicing their fine motor skills by cutting lines and shapes on construction paper.





Classroom 2 has been participating in winter science experiments. The students made oobleck and observed a peppermint candy cane change the color of the oobleck. The students also have created snowstorms in a jar and made structures with toothpicks and gumdrops.





Classroom 3 has been creating their own games. The students are working together in groups of three to plan and make a game together to promote teamwork. The students have been using the loft area as a veterinary clinic. They made store signs for the clinic and set up a waiting area. One of their special guests this month was the Rabbit Wranglers. The special visitor taught the students about rescuing and caring for rabbits.





The afternoon class also has been building with different materials these past few weeks. The students used gumdrops and toothpicks to build structures for their gingerbread men. They also enjoyed using different building materials around the room during choice time.



## Research Spotlight

### The Importance of Preschool and High-Quality Programs

Children benefit from attending a high-quality preschool program. Preschool programs are generally rated by their process and structure. This means that the interactions, activities, materials, learning opportunities, and health and safety routines are observed and rated. The size of each group of children, the adult-student ratio, and the education of the teachers are also observed. Research has shown that children benefit from attending preschool. Participating in early education provides academic and social benefits. Children who attend preschool



are more likely to succeed in kindergarten than those who do not. In order for children to benefit from a preschool program, research shows that the preschool must be rated high-quality.

**"The Building Blocks of High-Quality Early Childhood Education Programs"**

<https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/product/building-blocks-high-quality-early-childhood-education-programs>

**"High-Quality Preschool: Why We Need It and What It Looks Like"**

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/high-quality-preschool-why-we-need-it-and-what-it-looks>

**"Effective Early Childhood and Pre-kindergarten Programs: Intervention & Best Practices"**

<http://krfoundation.org/krf/site-content/uploads/2017/05/0-5-Literature-Review-Final-Report-120916.pdf>

**"Don't Overlook Pre-K Curriculum"**

<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/knowledge-bank/articles/2017-06-01/to-improve-preschool-learning-start-with-childrens-curriculum>