

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wow! Can you believe it's **2018**? Lisa & I hope you had a great holiday and made lots of memories with your little ones. THANK YOU ALL so much for throwing such a sweet Birthday Party for Baby Jesus. I hope you found time to bake His birthday cake during your break. Welcome Back!

Our units in January are Winter Fun, Winter Animals, Weather and Dinosaurs. On **Monday, January 8th** have your child bring a **labeled pair of mittens or gloves** for a fun circle time math activity.

Wednesday, January 10th at 9:15 a.m., there will be a VERY IMPORTANT PARENTS MEETING – **Kindergarten Readiness!** You will receive information that, together with January conference information, will help you to decide the next step in your child's education.

On Friday, **January 12th** please send in a **frozen shape of ice**. It can be any shape or size. Just use your imagination. We will be making an ice sculpture in our discovery table. For science we will drip water colors & see what happens. We will also learn how rock salt makes it stick together. We will watch it melt throughout the day observing how small & large pieces melt differently! The children always enjoy this experiment.

Wednesday, January 17th is **PAJAMA DAY!** (Completely optional) We will come to school **wearing our pajamas**. We will talk about hibernation and have fun being animals. Just for fun feel free to bring robes & slippers, blankies and/or a bedtime lovey, but no special treasures. Please also wear/send "running" shoes for Motor Class in the Gym & playground time. Don't forget to **label everything** for us, thanks!

For our Dinosaur unit we will need each child to **bring a shoe box with a detachable lid**. We will begin preparing our dinosaur dioramas to use during Dad's night in February.

Make plans now to sign up your child for the **Gesell Screening**. This screening is a *very informative tool* for you to have regarding your child's development. I cannot stress enough how **important** this is and how much I *really* want all of our children to be screened. Remember, in order to be successful in kindergarten, a child must be developmentally ready. It is so important for you to understand the baseline of your child's developmental age versus chronological age when considering their placement for next year. This screening is required to enroll in our kindergarten. **Proper placement is key to success**. And to help you understand your child's screening results, a personal detailed parent conference is included for you afterwards. It will show you all four of the following areas: social/emotional, cognitive, language & motor skills. Please consider having your child screened. *There is still time to register in the office*. Appointments are currently Wednesday Jan. 17th & 24th during school.

I will be assessing the children this month for our **parent/teacher conferences**. We will meet **Thursday, January 25th**. There will be a sign up sheet posted soon with time slots almost every ½ hour, so be sure to look for it.

Also on **Wednesday, January 31st** there will be another IMPORTANT PARENT MEETING – **Kindergarten a "Year of Magic" meeting from 1:00-1:30 pm** – where you will learn about all of the wonderful things your child can learn in Kindergarten here at Bear Creek UMC School.

I hope I have not forgotten anything. Thank you once again for sharing your children with us, we just adore them.

God Bless you, Monica Donaldson