



The Learning Tree

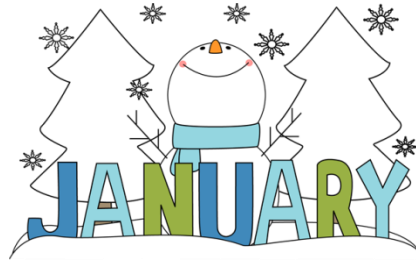
Volume 46

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JANUARY CALENDAR

- * **Tuesday, Jan 2:** School Resumes
- * **Monday, Jan. 8:** library visit
- * **Tuesday, Jan. 9:** library visit
- * **Wednesday, Jan. 17:** PJ party and hibernating bears
- * **Thursday, Jan.18:** PJ party and hibernating bears
- * **Monday, Jan 15: No School**
- * **Wednesday, Jan 24:** Color white day!
- * **Thursday, Jan 25:** Color white day!
- * **Monday, Jan 22:** Animals in Winter with Carolyn Mathews
- * **Wednesday, Jan 24:** Music with Miss Julie
- **February 12-16: School Pictures**



December was magical! We all had fun and tried really hard to get in all of our fun holiday activities! We began December with sharing a top secret recipe for the elf and reindeer food. We all had it as snack that day.

Julie Courtney kept the fun going with more rhythms and sounds of the season. We even got to ring the church bells!! A great big thanks goes to Miss Stacy who was able to arrange for a special story hour time for Learning Tree! If you see them, thank them! Big hugs go out to Carolyn Mathews who shared her knowledge of Christmas trees with our children. You may remember that for many years the Mathews family owned and operated the "In Town Tree Farm". Carolyn presented samples of many varieties of trees and talked about how they grow. Our trip to the library rounded out a busy holiday season. We are very grateful to our LT Santa for sharing his lap and hearty Ho, Ho, Hos! Thank you for sharing happy, excited (and occasionally *too* excited) children who made the whole month special for us too.

IT'S A NEW YEAR

We are looking forward to settling back into familiar activities and routines.

We ended the year partying and now we will begin a new year with a party (as it should be with little ones - *life is a party!*) We are going to celebrate the start of 20224 in style this year with our own New Year's party: no parents allowed!

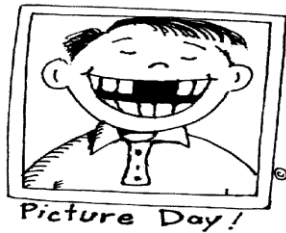
Our favorite "Nature Woman" Carolyn Mathews, will be back to talk with the children about how animals live in the winter.



To further celebrate our winter friends we will talk a lot about hibernation and have our annual Teddy Bear Hibernating Pajama Party. So much for settling down!

Thank
You

The teachers and I cannot thank you all enough for the thoughtful cards and gifts. This was our first year with the Amazon Wish List. You guys exceeded any expectations we had for that plan! Thank you so much.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Once again we are very lucky to have Chris Studio taking our school pictures. Those of you who had them done last year can testify to the wonderful quality of our pictures. Miss Michelle Zeagles will be taking these photos **February 12-16**. Cost will be the same as last year: \$30.00 for a package containing 1 group, two 3x5's and 8 wallets. Pictures will be taken every day but please pay on the day that you want your child's individual picture taken. All children will be in a group photo every day that they come to school, but you will only receive the group photo that is taken on the day you paid for your child's individual photo. Any questions? Just ask Nadene. I strongly suggest that you have your picture taken early in the week in case of snow or sickness because there will be **no** make-ups! Pictures are optional, as are all our fundraisers.



SOUP SALE

Early in February, we will be learning the value of community and the need to help each other through the wonderful story, Stone Soup. We will be reading the book and thinking of ways to help others. With this story in mind, we will be asking for your involvement. We will be asking each kiddo to bring in one food item for our own Stone Soup. We will be making it together and then, SURPRISE!, you will have the opportunity to buy our creation! Watch for more information as the date draws near.



HIBERNATING PARTY

"Time for Sleeping"

*Now, it's time for sleeping
The bears go in their caves.
It keeps them warm and cozy
Time for lazy days.
When the snow is gone & the sun comes out to play
The bears will wake up from their sleep and then go on to play.*



On **Wednesday, January 17** and **Thursday, January 18** we will have our annual PJ party to send our bears off to sleep for the long winter.

We will hibernate our bears mid-month with grand fanfare. We will be making a special bear to send home for you and your child to hibernate. **Sometime in March we will ask you to wake up your bear and bring it back to school (a little pressure not to lose it).**

Would you believe we are asking you to send your child to school in his/her PJ's or nightgown? They may wear their school clothes underneath if you like. We will tell them bedtime stories, have chocolate milk and cookies, and have a PJ party. It is so much fun!

SNOWFLAKE DANCE

(Sung To: "Are You Sleeping?")

*Dance like snowflakes,
Dance like snowflakes
In the air,
In the air
Whirling, Twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, Twirling snowflakes
Here and there. Here and there.*

**Let It
SNOW**

I am hoping there will be some true winter weather coming! Be sure to watch for weather related schedule changes on WCBC, our Facebook page and a text from the classroom teacher.





TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS

All the delightful gifts from our families were so much appreciated! Cathy and I hope that your holiday season was joyful.

December brought us bells, trees, elves (especially, the Big Elf himself), giving, and sharing. The children have tasted 'elf food,' put gift mittens and hats on the tree, and enjoyed creating a present for you.

Continue to watch for school closings and delays. Refer to your school booklet for instructions. We will acknowledge winter coming by 'putting our bears to sleep': making a paper bear and sending it home for you to put somewhere to sleep until we bring them out in the Spring. When we hibernate our bears, there will be a pajama party, and everyone is encouraged to wear PJs and drink warm cocoa. Winter weather, including snow related activities, the color white, and what animals do when it gets cold are all topics we will read and sing about. We might even have a 'snowball' game! Please read the rest of the newsletter for important information.

Santa may have brought other children the same backpack or coat as your child, so please mark his or her name on new items. Here's to the New Year, and the second half of our school year as

your children continue to play and grow with us!

Love,
Miss Angela and Miss Cathy



THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us to all of you! We appreciate your thoughtful gestures this holiday season. Most of all we appreciate your partnership with us here at the Learning Tree.

We're excited to start 2024! We had a lot of fun in December, learning about our 5 senses at Christmas and making ornaments. The students loved singing holiday songs. Their joy at this time of year is truly magical. We love all the excitement and anticipation that comes during this time of year. That excitement only intensified with our visit from Santa.

During the month of January, we will be talking about winter themed activities like building snowmen. We will also discuss animals' habitats and those that hibernate. Be sure to ask your child what new letter friend we are learning about as we begin to introduce them.

January 17th, we will be hibernating our bears for winter.

Come in your jammies and we will have a hibernating party!

Thank you for sharing your child with us! As always it is a pure joy to be a small part of their education journey and watch them grow!

Love,
Miss Tesha and Miss Melinda



FOUR-YEAR-OLD CLASS

Happy New Year to all our LT friends! We hope you enjoyed your holiday break - the families, cookies, new presents and break from our busy schedules. December was cut short due to our holiday schedule, but our kiddos enjoyed making decorations that will stick with you for years to come.

Moving into January the excitement of Santa has passed but we have many exciting things to look forward to here at Learning Tree.

We'll be focusing on the colors black and white, as well as the "gon" family - pentagon, octagon, and hexagons. We will be working on our middle of the year assessments (better known as Brain Games) to see what we've learned so far this year. We will get back into the swing of writing and new secret letters every week.

As the second half of our year begins we will be looking for more signs of independence and maturity from our friends. Sharing has grown easier, following directions has become second

nature and we love all our visitors
and special events.

We will learn about animal
habitats, weather, and how to
appropriately dress for it. We will
also be doing some science
experiments with water and ice!
We look forward to the second
half of the year with our kiddos!

Love,
Miss Kelsey and Miss Tami

I made myself a snowball,
As perfect as could be,
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,
And let it sleep with me.
I made it some pajamas,
And a pillow for its head,
Then last night it ran away,
But first-- it wet the bed.



