

Dear Families,

Thank you for making our holidays very merry! Being with you at the sing-a-long, your gifts and warm wishes were much appreciated. We feel so grateful to be a part of such a wonderful community.

Next week (January 3rd) we'll begin a study of Oregon Animals: Beavers, Deer, Coyotes and Eagles. We'll be exploring where and how these animals live and what part they play in the environment of our own backyard. We're asking for your help! We're seeking any of the items listed below that you may already have at home to be shared and explored in our classroom.

- Small sticks, pine needles, rocks or mud (for building beaver dams and eagle nests)
- Antlers, skulls, pelts, teeth or bones
- Beaver wood
- Feathers
- Photographs of beavers, deer, coyotes and eagles
- Beaver, deer, coyote and eagle books
- Crafting fur
- Beaver, deer, coyote and eagle stories or songs
- Toy beavers, deer, coyotes and eagles

We've changed our classroom to accommodate the needs of a larger group of children. A few things have changed:

- We'll begin our mornings inside, each day, until more accessible weather arrives in the spring
- Extra/spare clothes are now kept in our bathroom cupboard
- If your child is sent home with a plastic bag of wet or dirty clothes, please provide clothes to return to us. Even if your child toilets independently, without accidents, there are plenty of opportunities for them to get wet, spill or get messy throughout the day and extra clothes are always needed.
- Please provide a pair of shoes that can be worn inside each day. Slippers with hard soles or open-toed sandals work just as well as sneakers or a pair of light, slip-on boots. Shoes and socks become very wet with our weather and playground, and we'd like to have your child feel comfortable and safe from stubbing a toe or having their foot stepped on. Shoes also assure that your child is not barefoot in our classroom on wet, slippery floors or slipping in just their socks.
- Please provide a reasonably-sized blanket or pillow for your child and one stuffed animal.
- If your child arrives with a backpack, please encourage your child to unpack their bag. Naptime items are for the top compartment of their cubbies; coats, jackets and snow pants in the main compartment; smaller items in their blue baskets below (i.e. toys, hairclips, brushes, spare gloves or hats). They can place their boots on the rug near the door and either hang their hats or gloves or place them in the clear, square, plastic container near the playground door.

- If your child has a special diet please, coordinate purchasing food and supplying items with Tammy, Tera, or our Cook Matt.
- Your child's 'take home' folders are located next to our file cabinet and snack cabinet. Please check them often.
- We have a lost and found. It is located on the bottom right-hand compartment of the first shelf next to the door of our classroom.

Please feel free to talk with us at anytime and share your questions, concerns or ideas with us. We are here to help best support your children and accommodate your requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to work and play with your outstanding, creative, kind, brave, curious children.

All the best to you!

Your Blossom Teachers, Lane, Caroline, Linda, Salina