



JANUARY, 1ST 2018

Dear Families,

"Architecture starts when you carefully put two bricks together. There it begins."

- Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

I'm always fascinated by the structures young children make. The brain, drawn to patterns and seeking order, lends endlessly to the drive and creativity of 4 and 5 year-olds. Preschoolers can build with most anything. They are also entirely curious about the world around them. Each day we enter in and out of buildings—stores, libraries, offices, pavilions, homes, schools, auditoriums. Some buildings tell us about themselves in one glance. Other are so impressive they inspire us. Most buildings mean something to us. A few buildings seem to be shared and revered by all of us.

But what makes a building a 'building'? How are they made, who makes them and what are they made from? Where are they located? What are they used for and what features do they share? This next 6 weeks, we'll begin our buildings study. We'll learn about buildings from all over the world and those right here and dear to us. We'll explore what makes a building; from the concrete poured for a foundation to the shingles on the roof. We'll talk about domes, pillars, arches and eaves. We'll make blueprints, designs, and models. We'll become architects, engineers, builders, and innovators. We're so excited to begin this study.

If you have ideas, materials or expertise to share please let us know!

Before we begin the buildings study we'll take a few days to prepare the classroom and teach a small unit on germs and hygiene!

Germs—downright, disgusting, mean, no good and nasty—the kind that make you sick that is. We can't see them with our eyes, but we know they are there and there are a few simple things we can do each day to keep them away. We'll draw germs, find out where we should sneeze and cough, we'll learn how germs are passed along and what to do to keep them at bay. We're excited to see what we find out!

Who 's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Not the Blossoms! Our Fairy Tale unit ended in December, but not before we saw a giant and giantess in our classroom, snuck through the dark woods like Little Red Riding Hood, and outwitted the Wolf at his own game! We hope these stories stay with your children! Be sure to ask about their favorite fairy tale!

We do our best to keep your children's hats and gloves safe at school and convenient for you and for them to find. We encourage Blossom's to use their 'blue basket' at the top of their cubby. Your encouragement goes a long way! Please place your child's hat and gloves in their blue basket and remove summer change of clothes when doing so. Thank you for helping us stay ,oh so warm!

Thank you for warm and thoughtful wishes this Christmas season! We're so fortunate to be a part of Growing Tree and it's amazing families and children. We hope you know how dear to us your children are.

We are so grateful to you for sharing your creative, kind, curious, clever, capable, caring children with us each day.

We wish you well—Happy New Year!!

Lane, Hannah, Emily, Joey, Kindaroo and Coyote

January '18

What do we know about Buildings?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5
School Closed	What are germs and what do they do?	How do germs spread?	How do we get rid of germs?	How do we get rid of germs?
New Year's Day	9	10	11	12
8	What do buildings have?	What do buildings have?	What do buildings have?	What do buildings have?
15	16	17	18	19
What are buildings made with?	What are buildings made with?	What are buildings made with?	What are buildings made with?	What are buildings made with?
22	23	24	25	26
What are different types of buildings?	What are different types of buildings?	Where are buildings located?	What are buildings made for?	What are buildings made for?
29	30	31	Who are buildings made by?	
What are buildings made by?	What are buildings made by?	Field Trip! 9am-11am		

Notes:

- JAN. 1:
- School Closed - NYD
- JAN. 15:
- MLK Jr. Day

