

THE MONTHLY BLOOM

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

December 1, 2020

"The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dear Families,

We are so proud of all your Blossom tree experts. Over the past month we have identified many different kinds of trees, investigated their characteristics, and explored their life cycles. We learned why trees are life sustaining and essential to our world. We are sending home two publications from *Oregon Forest Resources Institute*, with each Blossom that we highly encourage you to explore with your children and allow them to share their excitement for trees. We will soon be rapping up our outdoor blocks construction project! After so much hard work and anticipation it has been so exciting to imagine the play that will follow with these blocks. The finished product will truly have been created by the Blossoms, they sanded, stained, and built every piece. We hope your children will continue to seek more answers and ask more questions about trees!

Questions to ask your tree expert:

- *Why do deciduous trees' leaves change color?*
- *Why are trees important to arboreal animals? How do different animals use trees?*
- *What do trees give us? (This is a loaded question!)*
- *Why do Douglas Fir cones have little 'mouse tails' hanging out of them?*

Starting in December we will begin our Winter Celebrations Around the World study. While

holidays will undoubtedly look different this year in all of homes, at school the Blossoms will be fully immersed in holiday celebrations all month long. We will be learning about family traditions practiced when celebrating Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and New Year! Many Blossoms have expressed interest in identifying countries on classroom maps and globes. Following this interest, to explore various Christmas traditions, we will read stories, play games, and create art from three countries where Christmas is widely celebrated. Before our New Year's celebrations we will be asking Blossoms to share special traditions they are experiencing at home. Details to come! We are so excited to be sharing and practicing traditions Blossoms observe in your homes this season!

We are now asking that Blossoms keep nap stuffies at home. We appreciate your support!

While we won't be able to hold the annual Holiday Sing-A-Long in person, COVID can't stop us from joining in song and spreading cheer! The Blossoms will be singing:

It's You I Like

I See the Moon

Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer

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

We wish you well,
Emily, Gale, Kristine, Coyote, Kinderoo & Joey



December '20

Winter Celebrations Around the World

Notes:

- Dec. 24th-25th - No School, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
- Jan. 1st - No School, New Year's Day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30 Diwali	1 Diwali	2 Diwali	3 Christmas in America	4 Christmas in America
7 Christmas in Mexico	8 Christmas in Mexico	9 Christmas in Mexico	10 Christmas in Germany	11 Christmas in Germany
14 Hanukkah	15 Hanukkah	16 Hanukkah	17 Hanukkah	18 Hanukkah
21 Winter Solstice	22 Blossom Family Traditions	23 Blossom Family Traditions	24 No School	25 No School
28 Kwanzaa	29 Kwanzaa	30 New Years	31 New Years	1 No School

