

# THE MONTHLY BLOOM

GROWING TREE CHILDREN'S CENTER

January 1, 2022

Dear Blossom Families,

We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Diwali, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Years! While our celebrations at home continued to look quite different this year, it was such a wonderful privilege to fully indulge in each celebration within our little bubble. The Blossoms created a life-sized sleigh, made Rosca de Reyes and latkes, spun dreidels, painted poinsettias, and carefully created rangoli patterns with sand. Throughout this unit Blossoms could regularly be heard exclaiming, "My mom is going to love celebrating like this!" We love this excitement! Thank you for eagerly supporting your child's learning at home, it makes explorations at school all the more meaningful.

Questions to ask your winter celebration expert:

- *What is your favorite holiday tradition our family practices?*
- *What is the story of Hanukkah?*
- *In Germany, what did Kris Kringle turn spider webs left on a tree into?*
- *How do people celebrate light over darkness during Diwali?*
- *Do other winter holidays celebrate light over darkness?*
- *What was your favorite celebratory food the Blossoms prepared?*

This January we will be exploring our great Beaver State and many of its important animal species. We will begin with beavers—a keystone species that creates invaluable habitat for many other local species. Next to humans, beavers change their environment more than any other animal. We'll use real artifacts, legends and observations of beavers, their homes and their habitats to investigate the creatures that once dominated the West. As we continue our study we'll learn about the mysterious life cycle of salmon as they move downstream to the ocean and back again. Each year we

are reminded of salmon's wonder and endless ways they give life to our environment. Our next focus will be on the birds of Oregon, including the bald eagle and the impressive peregrine falcon. Our study will conclude with learning about our beloved coyote, the legendary figure of great wild western America. We will make comparisons between this populous creature and the much more scarce gray wolf. If you have any materials, items, stories or photographs to share, please let us know!

Thank you for kind and generous wishes this holiday season! We are so thankful to be a part of Growing Tree and its amazing community. We hope you know how dear your children are to us.

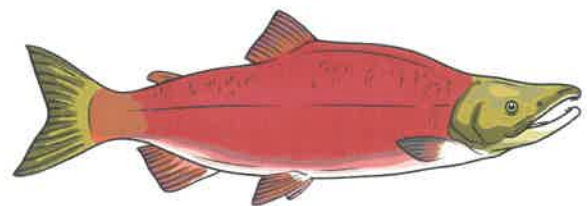
Reminders:

- **Please keep stuffies/lovies at home this year, thank you!** If you have any concerns regarding nap time comforts let us know.
- As the unpredictable weather continues, please label all clothing and cold weather accessories with your Blossom's name.

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, Kristine, Jacqui, Kinderoo & Joey

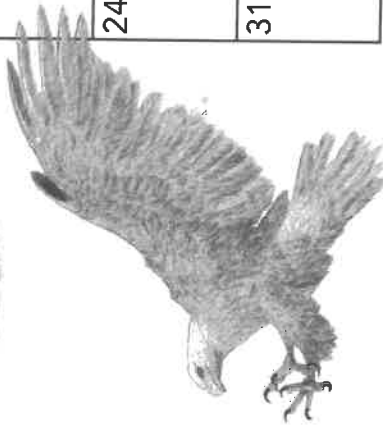




# January '22

## Oregon Animals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Beavers	4 Beavers	5 Beavers	6 Beavers	7 Other OR Small Land Mammals
10 Salmon	11 Salmon	12 Salmon	13 Salmon	14 Other OR Aquatic Animals
17 Bald Eagles	18 Bald Eagles	19 Peregrine Falcons	20 Peregrine Falcons	21 Other OR Birds
24 Coyotes	25 Coyotes	26 Coyotes	27 Gray Wolves	28 OR Animals of Interest
31	1	2	3	4



Winter Olympics

