

Dear Families,

It's been a busy month for our Blossoms and for Growing Tree! We so appreciate your flexibility and support as our community dealt with heavy snowfall and the possibility of a quick melt! Early this month we began our study of beavers as part of our Oregon Animals study. Because of your children's interest in the subject we continued this study throughout January.

This week we began a study of coyotes. Did you know that coyotes live in every US state except for Hawaii? They are truly one of nature's best adaptors. With their signature call and canine features almost everyone in North America has had some kind of interaction with coyotes at some point. As we continue our study, we'll use the same framework we used for investigating beavers: Where do coyotes live? What do they eat? How do they behave? What are coyote packs like? How do coyotes affect the known environment? If you have any coyote artifacts (bones, fur, photographs or stories) to share please let us know! We love utilizing the opportunity to make a connection between school and home.

Your children are 4-year-old beaver experts! It was fascinating to watch their understanding of beavers grow and to see them begin to explore their own ideas and thoughts about beavers with excellent questions and representations. During January we built beaver lodges and dams small and large. We played the 'beaver game' (a simple game your child would love to play at home with you as well!) and we read excellent non-fiction stories and beaver legends. We saw videos of beavers in their natural environment and we listened to real recordings of beaver sounds! We wrote beaver books, journals and using vests made by Salina we were even able to be beavers too. We look forward to relating what we learn about beavers in their habitat during our coyote study.

Some small notes for the upcoming month:

- : ON VALENTINE'S DAY: Please leave all candy and treats at home! Growing Tree provides a special Valentine's Day snack each year that we can enjoy together as a class. Snacks or treats brought in will be sent home.

PARENT VALENTINE PROJECT If you chose to bring in Valentines please distribute them *with your child* into the Blossom Valentine bags located on in the hallway.

- Your child needs a pair of shoes that can be worn inside every 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 to be 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 every day that will fit in the top compartment of their cubby.
- 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!**

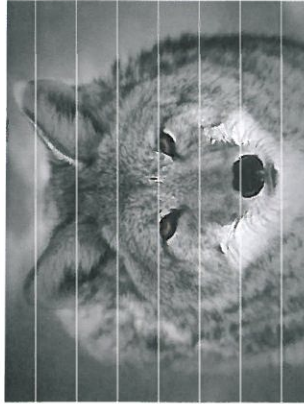
**Your Blossom Teachers, Lane, Caroline, Linda, Salina**

# February '17

# What do we know about Coyotes?

**Notes:**

- FEB. 14:  
- Valentine's Day
- FEB. 20:  
- School Closed  
- President's Day



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3	
<b>What do we know about coyotes?</b>				
Where do they live? What do they eat? What do they look like?				
6	7	8	9	10
How do coyotes behave? Raise their young? How do they hunt?				
13	14	15	16	17
How do coyotes 'adapt'? What affects coyotes environment?				
20	22	23	24	25
<b>What did we learn about coyotes?</b>				
School Closed Pres. Day				
27	28			
<b>What did we learn about coyotes?</b>				

