

THE SPOTTED ZEBRA

Learning Center

December 2025

Reminders:

- The Center is closing at 1:30 on 12/12 for staff training
- The Center is closed from 12/24-1/2 for Winter Break
- The Center reopens on 1/5!



Admin News

Winter is here! We hope everyone is staying warm as we get our first snowstorms in! As a reminder, we follow South Colonie for weather-related closures, so if South Colonie is closed we will be closed, and if South Colonie has a two hour delay, so will we.

We are excited to be hosting a PaperPie Learning Book Fair from 12/17-12/19! The fair will have three methods of purchasing; in person shopping while our PaperPie representative is there during pickup times, online shopping using the QR code below and on the flyer sent home on 12/1, or through an order form from PaperPie that will be sent home soon. To use the order form method, please send in your child with a filled out order form and payment. Payment can be received as cash, Venmo, credit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, Cash App, and PayPal

Please note that we are closing at 1:30 on 12/12 for staff training, and the Center will be closed from 12/23-1/2 for winter break, and will re-open on 1/5.



Ms. Sheri, Mr. Matt, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Rachael, Ms. Jenna, and Mr. Derek

What is Happening in the Classrooms...



Teal Room News

Hello Teal Room Families,

It's hard to believe we're already heading into December! This month, we'll continue building on previous experiences with a month full of seasonal learning and celebrations. Our themes will include cold weather and warm clothing, gingerbread, holiday cooking, and celebrating one another. Children will explore the changes winter brings by exploring the clothing we wear to stay warm, participate in sensory play inspired by cold weather, and engage in creative art activities like mitten matching and winter collages. We'll also dive into a delicious gingerbread theme by reading stories, comparing gingerbread shapes, creating gingerbread art, and doing simple cooking activities that allow children to mix, pour, and explore ingredients.

Throughout the month, we'll continue to emphasize kindness, teamwork, and celebrating each other. Whether we're preparing a special class recipe, building together during play, or enjoying seasonal stories, the children will have many opportunities to practice helping friends, sharing materials, and recognizing the unique strengths each child brings to our classroom community. We're excited for a month filled with cozy learning, creativity, and connection.

A few reminders:

- We will be closed from 12/24/25 through 1/2/26 for the holiday break. We will reopen on Monday, 1/5/26.

Best,

Ms. Heather, Ms. Sara, Ms. Lauren, Ms. Kaitlin, Ms. Kelly, & Ms. Alli



Violet Room News

We had a wonderful month of November! Our kids really loved exploring the medium of collage through our vegetable mural and Thanksgiving plates. The Violet Room children have adjusted well to changes in our schedule, they are able to sit longer for circle times, and are attending very nicely for small groups. The kids are forming beautiful friendships, they have our daily routine down, and they are becoming more independent each day.

We are ready to jump into winter and welcome the month of December! We will learn about winter activities, arctic animals, and winter holidays.

This month the children will get to play with sparkly white playdough to make hats, mittens, snowflakes, and snowmen! We will work on lacing beads onto snowflake pipe cleaners and we will paint with snowflake straws. These activities help the children to use their pincer grasp and works on hand-eye coordination as well.

For arctic animal week the Violet Room will make a watercolor painting with ice cubes and we will use pipettes to save arctic animals who are frozen in ice. This is a fine motor skill, and will help strengthen little fingers.

Teachers will read *The Mitten* and kids will make a mitten craft using glue to stick the animals on. This will be great for working on multi-step directions.

To finish our month of December, we will make a special gift for moms and dads, and we will make latkes to eat!

We will be reading: *The Mitten*, *Where Polar Animals Live*, *Five Little Penguins Slipping on the Ice*, *Polar Bear Polar Bear What do you Hear?*, *Penguin has the hiccups*, *Latkes Latkes*, and *Snowman at Christmas*.

We plan to have a holiday party on December 23rd! We will keep you posted with upcoming details.

Important reminders:

- There is no wrap around care on Friday 12/12
- We will be closed for winter break from December 24th – January 4th

Ms. Brittany, Ms. Terry, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Allison



Blue Room News

We can't believe it's already December! Throughout November the Blue Room had a great time learning about using manners, taking turns, using kind words, and completing a multitude of Thanksgiving activities. As always, we are continuing to work on turn talking, sharing, and staying in our own personal space.

We are excited to get the holiday season rolling! Our elf Chippy has been spotted throughout our classroom. He's ready to keep an eye on our friends to make sure they make green choices this holiday season. We will be learning about many holidays including Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, etc. Our letters this month will be F, G and H. We will also be focusing on Arctic animals, holiday cookies/treats, winter activities, and winter weather! Please keep an eye out for our Gingerbread Holiday party sign up for school safe candy/supplies to decorate our gingerbread houses! Parents will be able to attend. We are so excited for what the new year has in store for our class!

As the weather gets colder, please remember to send your child in with a heavy coat, hat, gloves, and extra boots and snow pants if possible. Please label all items. We would love to continue our fun on the playground even with the snow!

Happy Birthday this month to:

Dominic- 12/2

Ms. Katina- 12/20

We hope you and your families have a fun, safe, and memorable holiday season.

Kind regards,

Ms. Jackie, Ms. Katina, and Ms. Khrista



Green Room News

Hello Green Room Families!

Time is moving quickly, and it's hard to believe we've already reached the final month of the year. We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving! As we head into December, we're excited to focus on the spirit of giving, holiday traditions, and welcoming the New Year.

We'll begin the month by exploring our five senses—a fun and engaging way to kick off all the holiday activities coming up. Later, we'll jump into the adventures of the Gingerbread Man and learn about different holidays celebrated around the world.

There are lots of exciting projects planned! One of our highlights will be creating gingerbread trees using sugar cones. As we get closer, we'll send out a sign-up sheet for peanut/tree nut-free candy decorations. Thank you in advance for your support!

With colder weather settling in, please be sure your child has warm clothing—hats, gloves, and a cozy jacket—for outdoor play. We head outside whenever temperatures are above 32°F. To help avoid mix-ups, please label all items with your child's name. The playground continues to be one of our favorite places for fresh air and fun!

If you haven't done so already, please update your child's spare clothing to include warmer items.

And of course, let's wish a very happy birthday to Ashton and Everly!

Wishing you all a warm, joyful, and memorable holiday season.

Ms. Michelle, Ms. Elle, and Ms. Jennifer



Orange Room News

Dear Orange Room Families,

Happy December! It's hard to believe we are already in the final month of the year. The Orange Room has been buzzing with curiosity, laughter, and learning, and we continue to be so proud of the friendships and confidence the children are building each day. Their growth is shining through in everything they do!

This month, we're beginning with a familiar and much-loved theme—the Gingerbread Man! We'll explore this story through baking, storytelling, art, and hands-on activities that encourage early literacy, creativity, and problem-solving. The children always love diving into this playful tale, and we can't wait to bring it to life in new ways.

As December continues, we'll be traveling "around the world" to learn about different holiday celebrations. Our goal is to help children develop an appreciation for traditions that may be similar to or different from their own. Through books, crafts, music, and classroom discussions, we'll explore celebrations such as Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, Diwali, Lunar New Year, and more.

We would also love to include your family traditions in our learning! If you have a holiday or cultural celebration you enjoy each year, we invite you to share it with us. This could be a story, a photo, a recipe, a special object, or simply a description of how your family celebrates. These moments help strengthen our classroom community and give children a meaningful sense of belonging.

As winter settles in, please continue sending your child with warm layers, coats, hats, and gloves so we can enjoy outdoor play comfortably. Fresh air and movement remain important parts of our day, even in the colder months!

We're looking forward to a December filled with warmth, wonder, and connection. Thank you, as always, for being such an essential part of our Orange Room family. We appreciate your partnership and are grateful for the joy your children bring to our classroom.

Warmly,

Ms. Katie, Ms. Tami, and Ms. Daphne
The Orange Room Team



Yellow Room News

How can it be December already!? We hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and had special times with their loved ones! December themes will be holidays around the world (specifically Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa). We will learn about needs vs. wants; use a gingerbread theme to practice counting, comparing, contrasting, and crafting/gift making; and holiday traditions. Be on the lookout for a special form to complete and return regarding family traditions. We will use them throughout December to highlight similarities and differences, and make connections, between our families and the books we read.

Letter learning and meaning making lessons using the letters li, Dd, and Hh will be the focus for our Learning Without Tears (LWT) curriculum. Not only will we practice phonemic awareness, but also understand story events and setting, as well as the character traits of persistence and kindness. Phonological awareness will be practiced using various holiday themed games related to rhyming and counting syllables.

Graphing, patterning, counting and comparing numbers/quantities will be the focus for math lessons this month. Math vocabulary such as more, less, greater, fewer, and equal to will be practiced in many ways.

The engagement the children show in our learning activities each day is in steady bloom. In particular, they enjoy the morning activities that allow them to access sensory, procedural, and social learning, which help them to start the school day more regulated and organized. The application of those baseline skills is crucial to further academic learning each day. Their independence is growing so nicely as well. Thank you for your support in helping to foster independence at morning drop-off.

Happy Birthday to Brodie and Ms. Carol this month! We wish everyone a happy holiday season!

Ms. Carol, Ms. Megan, and Ms. Chris

Meet the Spotted Zebra Herd!

Therapists and Special Educators

Ms. Juli	Psychology
Ms. Marlis	OT
Ms. Shawna	Speech (Teal)
Ms. Kaylyn	Speech (Yellow)
Ms. Caitlin	OT (V, B, O)
Ms. Rachel C	Speech (Orange)
Ms. Rachel M	Music
Ms. Carla	OT (Y, G)
Ms. Allison T	Speech (Violet)
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Cindy	PT (B, G, O)
Ms. Allison R	PT (Y, V, Teal)
Ms. Jesse	Speech (Blue)
Ms. Olivia	Speech (Green)
Ms. Kelly	OT (Teal)
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech (Teal)

Offsite Therapists

Ms. Shawna	Speech
Ms. Nicole Ge	Speech
Ms. Kathi	PT
Mr. Peter	OT
Ms. Nicole S	SEIT
Ms. Sarah	PT
Ms. Wendy	Speech
Ms. Laura D	Speech
Ms. Debbie	PT
Ms. Claire	Speech
Ms. Kaitlin	Speech

Floating Teachers

Ms. Alaina
Ms. Karen
Ms. Emily
Ms. Allison K
Ms. Nicole Gr
Ms. Tristyn
Ms. Josilyn
Ms. Cadence
Ms. Jennifer S

Admin Team

Ms. Sheri
Mr. Matt
Ms. Shannon
Ms. Amy
Ms. Victoria
Ms. Rachael
Ms. Jenna
Mr. Derek

