

Pre-Kindergarten Update

January 2024

Academic Focus

During December 2023 students in pre-k explored the *Buildings Study*. They built upon prior knowledge to create and extend patterns, used their fine motor skills to assemble small and large manipulatives, and used measurement tools. Students investigated what the buildings in their neighborhoods look like, who builds buildings, and what tools they use to build them. They made predictions and tested ideas about what are buildings made of, what makes them strong, what's special about school buildings, and what happens inside of buildings.



Markham Park- Ms. Naggles

After reading *The Story of the Three Little Pigs*, students conducted a STEM project in which they were given Dot's candies and toothpicks. Students were instructed to build a home that would protect the pigs from the big bad wolf. The following day students assisted Ms. Jackson with using a blow dryer (big bad wolf) to attempt to blow their homes down.

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STEAM Academy- Ms. Willis

Ms. Willis strongly encouraged her families to study their homes and neighborhood for the December 2023 family project. At home, students were assisted with recreating their homes and the buildings in their neighborhoods. They presented their finished projects to the class, where they had to point out special characteristics about each building.



Chateaux- Ms. Brown

Technology was incorporated into the Pre-K curriculum at Chateaux as Coach Butcher assisted our students with coding on the classroom iPads.



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Nob Hill - Ms. Crawford

On December 14, 2023 students from the Distributive Education Clubs of America, DECA Program, at Hillcrest High School visited Nob Hill's pre-k classroom. The emerging leaders and future entrepreneurs, completed a craft with our preschoolers, engaged in conversation, music and movement, provided lunch, and gifted them with Christmas presents. All participates thoroughly



Pre-K Field Trips

Field trips to the Museum of Science and Industry, Grande Prairie Library, and Markham Park District's Winter Wonderland provided a hands on approach to learning that engaged our children in conversations about how people live around the world during the winter months.



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Highlands - Ms. Samara

Students at Highlands used the Buildings Study to work on fine motor and math skills. They used wooden blocks to build towers and counted how many blocks tall each tower was.



Mae Jemison - Ms. Burden

The Dramatic Play area was heavily used at Mae Jemison as students role played as construction workers. They incorporated new vocabulary words into their play and used pretend play tools to work on the class construction site.



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Community Partnerships

The Chicago Buffalo Troopers Motorcycle Club adopted the Primary Learning Center this year and donated holiday gifts for every child. Members delivered the gifts to the PLC and educated its staff about the motorcycle club and the community service and outreach the club provides.

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023 the Pre-K Parent Coordinators hosted a Paint Party Workshop for our parents. While creating beautiful masterpieces, our families discussed how music and art can help improve their mood, manage stress, and promote mindfulness.



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Upcoming Events

1/10/2024: Parent Workshop

1/22/2024: PLC Meeting

1/23/2024: Parent Workshop

1/24/2024: Wonderworks Museum Field Trip

1/29/2024: Pre-K Child Find Screenings

1/30/2024: Pre-K Child Find Screenings

1/31/2024: Wonderworks Museum Field Trip