



Dunfee Digest

Fall at LMDS

What's inside:

- Classroom spotlights
- Fall-fun
- PTA Spirit days
- Polar Express Experience
- UPstanders of the month
- Making reading fun
- Book of the season & more!

Reminders

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and Twitter @
LMDS_preschool !

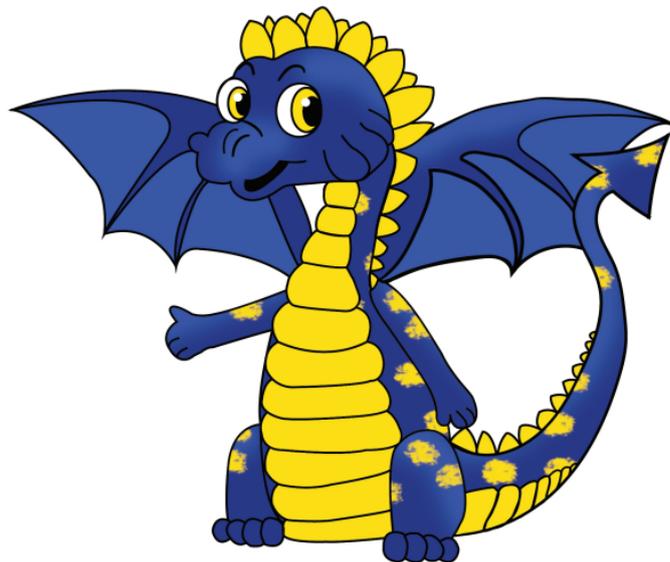


Hello, Dragons!

Welcome back!

Oh how the Dragons have been loving being back to school! We have sure been making the most of our school year so far. We have been taking advantage of every day that's nice enough that we can go outside, and when we have to be inside the fun doesn't stop! We have so many fun gross motor challenges, and just love to learn through play every day.

Take a peek at what the school year has been like for us Dragons so far! Between our incredible UPstanders, to getting a chance to have in person events again, story-time-tips, special holiday fun festivities and more - enjoy!





PTA Spirit Days!

Pictures from various classes.

From school spirit wear, to funky hair, holiday colors, pajamas and fun hats ... here are some of our Dragons getting into the school spirit!



School Spirit

Spirit Days 2021

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Fall fun for the Dragons!

Pictures from various classes.

This fall Dragons have been able to play outside a bunch, PTA sponsored the most-fun-pumpkin-patch-ever, and made lots of fun fall-inspired crafts! Here is a glimpse into what that's been like here at LMDS...



More fall fun!





Gathering of Dragons Fall Festival: a Schoolwide Playdate



October 28, 2021 @ LMDS Playground

A schoolwide playdate for Dunfee Dragons AND their families! We enjoyed some music & movement, arts & crafts, playground fun, obstacle courses, light refreshments, a chance to win one of THREE door prizes & a surprise spooky take away! Dragons came to play together, meet other Dragons and their families and met our friends at Oasis FSC who came to join in on the fun!!



More Fun-Fall Festival Pictures!



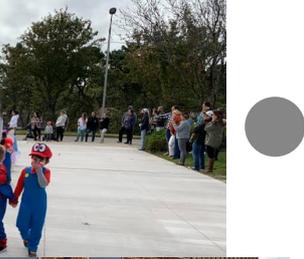
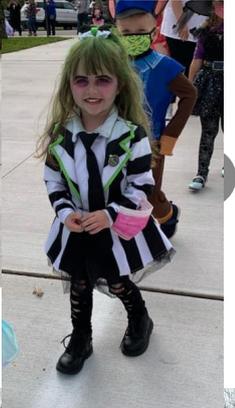


Halloween time Calls For Party & Parade Fun!



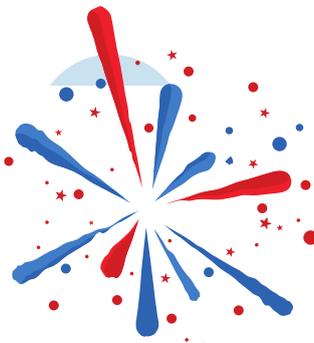


Dragons Parading!



SPooky

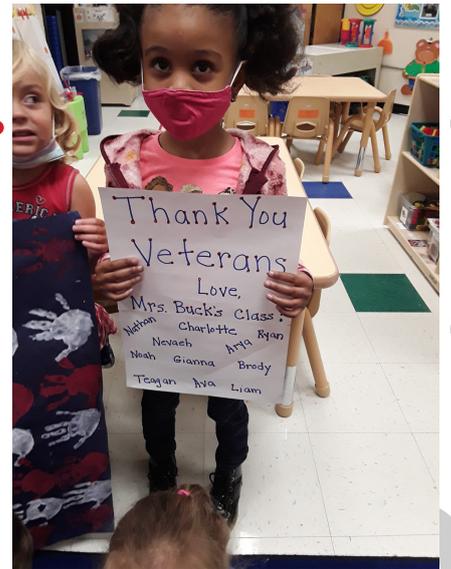
Veterans Day



Thursday, November 11

Dragons made red, white and blue artwork in honor of Veterans Day! We sent all of the amazing artwork to the military base near Atlantic City, NJ.

In fact, one of the Barnegat school counselor's spouse serves out of this base, so it was extra special to send our artwork to not only local active military members, but to one of our own!





Music Study

Mrs. Foster's Class

We had an extra special music study - we got to hear live holiday music played special just to us!

Center Time

Ms. Cronin & Ms. Schwartz Class

We love exploring our centers and learning through play, every day!



Bike Riding Fun

Mrs. Smuda's Class

We love gross motor fun! It was a beautiful fall afternoon for some outside bike riding time.

STEM fun!

*Ms. Cronin & Ms. Schwartz
Class*

Some STEM action trapping our classroom elves! The coolest part is waiting to see what it will look like tomorrow...



Ornament-DIY

Ms. Tardiff & Ms. August

We got to use our fingers & hands to make our very own ornaments!



Lite-Brite's Are Still Cool!

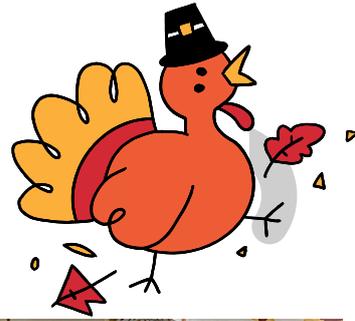
Ms. Josephs Class

We used our new mini lite-brite's to work on our fine motor skills!

Thanksgiving

Attitude of Gratitude

Dragons got into the thankful and giving spirit! Check out some of our fun Thanksgiving crafts AND parties!!





Hanukkah with Dragons!

Pictures from Ms. Josephs classroom.

Dragons love learning about all different traditions from all different cultures! Ms. Josephs and her students got to learn all about Hanukkah this holiday season by playing with dreidels, learning the letters that are on them, and getting to not only make but get to try latkes!



I LOVE U
A
latke!

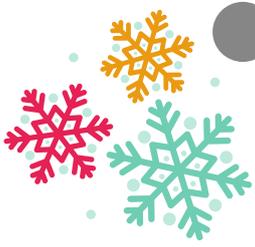


Polar Express Experience

Sponsored by Barnegat's Communities That Care (CTC)

Dragons got to come back to the school at night for a Polar Express Experience- in their pajamas! Dragons made their way through the school as they got to meet our various community partners - and get to see the school turned into a magical winter wonderland! Thanks to the Barnegat CTC for helping put together this amazing event! During the last school year, one of our virtual events was "Won't You Be My Neighbor" - for those of you who may not remember, it was a virtual trolley ride through Barnegat to get to meet different programs, services, organizations and more throughout our community. This year, we decided to take that event and make it in person (and upgraded from the trolley to a train)! It was so much fun getting all of our community partners together in one room and for all of them to get a chance to meet you!





Polar Express Experience Acknowledgments



A big THANK YOU again to our amazing staff and local Girl Scout troop for volunteering to help out for this event! Also a big THANK YOU to our community partners who came for this event!

THANK YOU ... *Barnegat Santa & Mrs. Claus for the surprise appearance, Barnegat Adopt A Street, Ocean County Library, Right At School. Girl Scouts, Barnegat Recreation Department, Starve Poverty, Rotary Club, Barnegat's Community Garden, Boy Scouts, Experimental Aircraft Association, Ocean Air Support, Barnegat 4H, Lefty's Barnegat Police Department, Oasis FSC, and of course Barnegat CTC.*



DRAGONS HAD A SURPRISE VISITOR!



Look who decided to come by and visit us Dragons! Can you hear the song playing in your head? I know I can ...

"You're a mean one ... Mr. Grinch ..."



UPStanders of LMDS

UPStander-Dragon of the Month

What is an UPStander?

In Barnegat, we believe in family. We also believe in helping students become the best versions of themselves, and facilitating a positive school climate.

And that's why in the 2018-2019 school year, the Counseling Department launched the UPStanders initiative. Through this program, one altruistic student per school will be recognized monthly at our Board of Education meetings. These students will be nominated by building administrative and counseling staff. To reward these students, we are granting them with a gift card to a local restaurant to fund a meal for their household. Parents will sign a contract to consent to bring the whole family—bringing back the idea of a family dinner and family togetherness.

Each month, students are nominated based on the UPStander criteria and the trait of the month.

UPStander Qualifying Criteria:

Outstanding citizenship, indicated by:

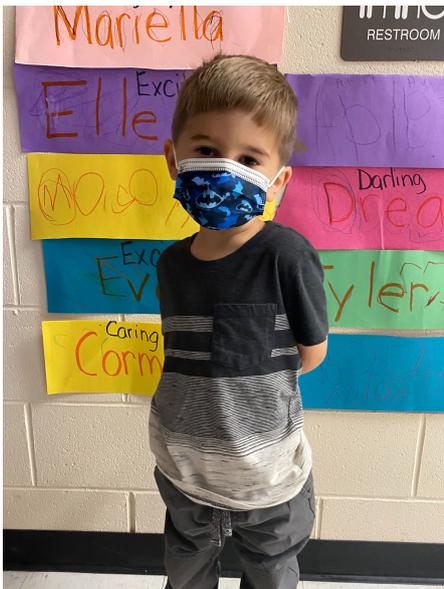
- 1 or more acts of **advocating** for their fellow student(s); and/or
- 1 or more acts of **kindness**, and/or
- 1 or more acts of facilitating **community**/teamwork, and/or
- 1 or more acts of leading a group **positively**

September
Trait of the month: **benevolence**

Callie Bowles

"Callie is kind to all of her classmates. When a classmate is upset or injured, Callie goes and consoles them. She puts her arm around them or rubs their back. She is always willing to let a classmate join the group or hold hands with a classmate who might need a partner. She is a true upstander!" - Mrs. Gulla





October Trait of the Month: Esteem

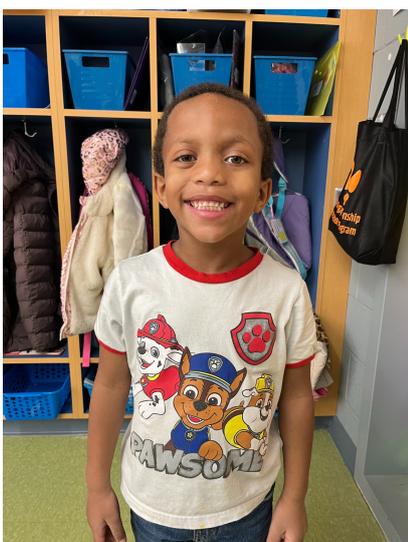
Nathan C.

"Nathan shows his kindness by helping his friends in the classroom and works well with others. He contributes to a positive school climate by following the classroom rules and routine. He encourages his friends to try their best and is a role model during learning activities." - Ms. Guenther

November Trait of the Month: Nurturing

L.D.

"L.D is the most nurturing student in my class. She loves to mother others and help others. When someone is sad or hurt, she is the first to go and try to cheer them up and check on them. L.D is eager to try her best to help a friend out by helping clean up, trying to tie their shoe, walking in line in the hallways and reminding all friends to stay safe." - Mrs. E.



December Trait of the Month: Generous

Jeremiah Henderson

"Jeremiah is so sweet and he is a great friend. Whenever someone falls on the playground, he is the first kid over there to help them up and ask if they are okay. He also helps his friends and teachers clean up the room every day! He is generous, caring and kind." - Ms. Pyron

Making the Most of Storytime

“It is the talk that surrounds the story book reading that gives it power.”

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) & International Reading Association

Reading aloud to young children is important, and **HOW** you share books can make a big difference. Research shows that following these read-aloud practices significantly improves the language skills of children who participate:



1. Have a conversation about a book
 - Frequent conversations—back and forth exchanges
 - Ask questions that require more than one word answers
 - Wait long enough for responses
 - Be responsive to what the child says
2. Model advanced language
 - Repeat what your child says and add more to it:
 - a. Provide new information
 - b. Recast what they say with more advanced vocabulary
 - c. Repeat what they say with correct grammar/word use, or a longer sentence
3. Prompt critical thinking skills
 - Ask how and why questions
 - Ask children to explain their answers
 - Give clues to get them to the right answer if possible
4. Intentionally build vocabulary
 - Reread the same book often
 - Stop and explain the meaning of one or two words
 - Define words using words they already know
 - Ask children to repeat the words to improve their memory of the sounds in the word
5. Teach and provide practice of social and emotional skills
 - Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
 - Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
 - Building community (relationship skills) “So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with their mommies.”

This information and more can be found at <https://www.preschoolpromise.org/BookoftheMonth-Providers.aspx>

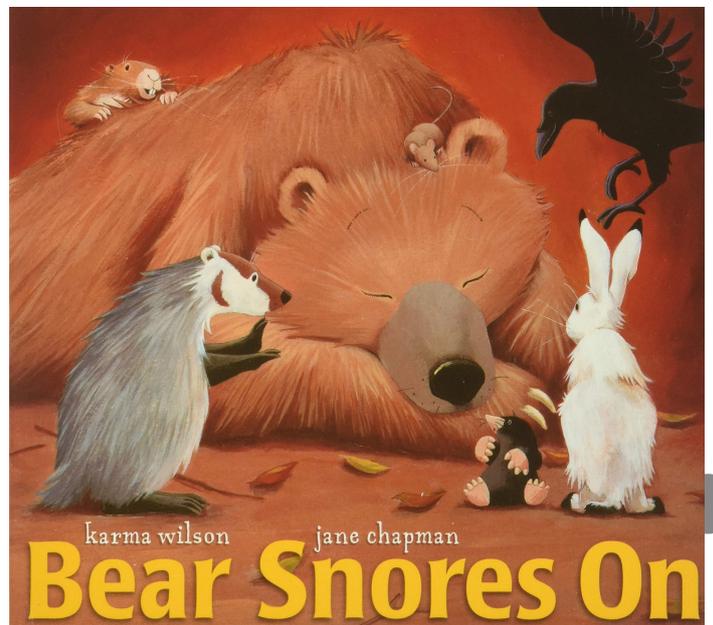
Book of the Season:

"Bear Snores On" by Karma Wilson & Jane Chapman

How much noise does it take to wake up a bear sleeping through winter? *Bear Snores On* tells the funny tale of Bear sleeping while his friends Mouse, Hare, Gopher, Badger, Raven, and Wren come to his cave and eventually end up having a party!

Feel free to check this book out at your local Ocean County Library Branch or click on the link and follow along with this read aloud:

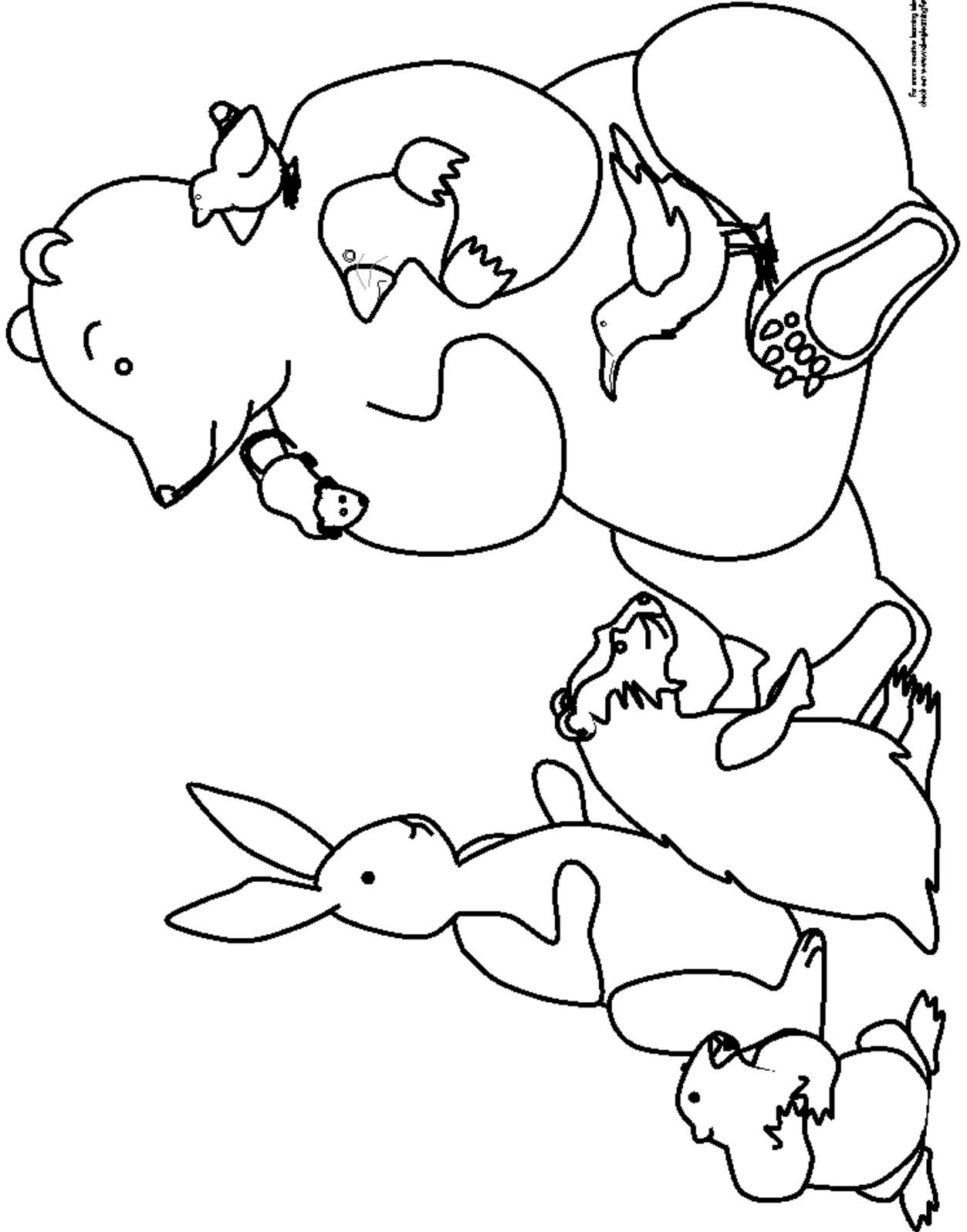
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kqug79ABHTo>



Looking for activities to do at home to help make storytime more fun?? See the next page for some ideas of how to engage your child while reading this book with them AND visit the below link for some free activities, print-outs, some more reading-fun ideas!

<https://growingbookbybook.com/bear-snores-on-activities/>

Here is a free coloring page for your little dragon to enjoy at home!



For more creative learning ideas
check out www.creativelearningideas.com

THANKYOU

