December 2025

BCS Preschool

Welcome!

I hope you are all staying warm and cozy as we enter these chillier months! Our hearts are truly filled with gratitude, thank you for your incredible generosity during our Holiday Food Drive. A special heartfelt thank-you goes to Lauren Bergmann for coordinating such an outstanding collection effort among our preschool families! Your compassion and willingness to come together remind us of the powerful impact we can have when we care for one another. As someone who had the privilege of helping distribute the beautiful boxes of donated goods, I am feeling truly grateful and inspired- I could not be more proud of the Berlin Borough preschool community!

The BCS Winter Holiday Drive is here! We will be collecting specific gifts for families in our community, the flyer is included in this newsletter if you'd like to extend a helping hand, the drive will be taking donations until December 12th. Please feel free to directly reach out to Marissa Furnari at furnarim@bcsberlin.org to get involved!

We are truly fortunate to share this season with such a warm and supportive preschool community. Thank you for your partnership, communication, and the care you bring to our school each day. Together, we create a space where children feel safe, celebrated, and ready to learn! It truly takes a village!

Please enjoy this month's newsletter filled up updates, pictures, spotlights, and good news! Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,
Ms Corinne Mattia
Community/Parent Involvement Specialist
contact: mattiac@bcsberlin.org

Upcoming Events:

Winter Wonderland Party December 23rd

Winter Break will take place from December 24th- January 2nd



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Coming Soon!

NEW
UPDATE

We're thrilled to announce our very first Family Workshop coming this January! This special event will feature engaging discussions on popular preschool topics, helpful tips, and plenty of take-home resources to support your child's growth and learning at home. Stay tuned for more details!

Sincerely,
The Preschool Support Team



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Preschool After School Club:
Hosted by Ms Shavon Wilson and Ms Rachel Guitan!

LET'S GET MESSY!

PLAYDOUGH FUN CLUB

★ FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY!

Get ready to squish, roll, and create! Join us for a hands-on, sensory-filled adventure where little artists make masterpieces out of PLAYDOUGH!

Dates: Every Tuesday
January 6 - February 3

Time: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Preschool Students
Limited to 30 Children!

Cost: $45 per student



★ Each week brings new colors, shapes, and creative fun!
Snacks and smiles provided!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Spots are limited – don't miss out on the fun!

Register here: Community Pass

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BCS Preschool Teacher Highlight:
Ms Carolyn Martino



This is my 26th year in education! I have my certification in Pre k -5. I have 3 daughters and my puppy Ruby is like another daughter! I love being creative and helping my students believe in themselves by using their imagination and taking risks!

Sincerely,
Ms Carolyn Martino

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Kindness Corner Spotlight: Lexi Alonzo



For the month of December our Kindness Corner Spotlight shines on little Lexi Alonzo! Lexi's gentle kindness shines each and every day! She is thoughtful, generous with her toys and ideas, and helps make her classroom feel like a true community. She has such a big, bright, and loving spirit!

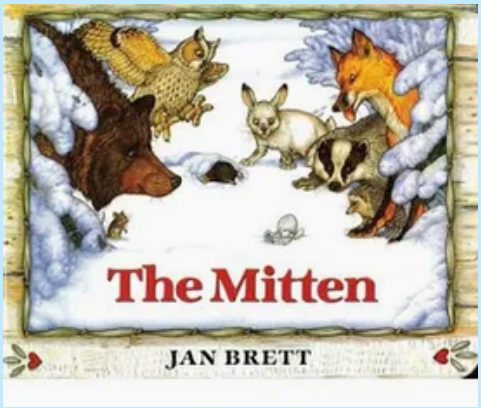
Lexi is a wonderful example of what it means to be a caring classroom citizen. Her classroom family is truly better because of her! Lexi is small in size but mighty in heart. She approaches challenges with courage and inspires her classmates with her caring attitude! Shine on Lexi, we love you!

Sincerely,
Ms. Carolyn Martino and The Preschool Support Team

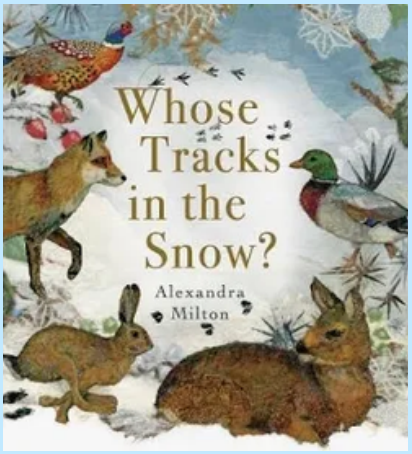
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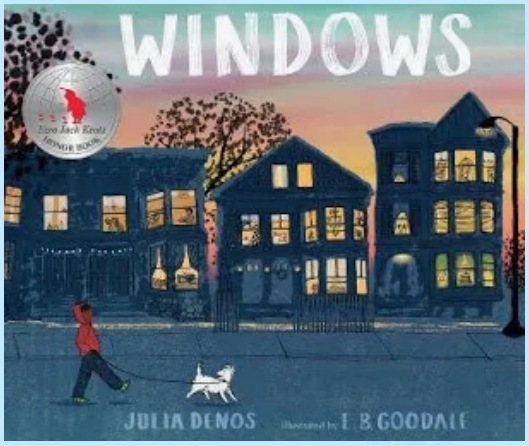
Book Recommendations of the Month:



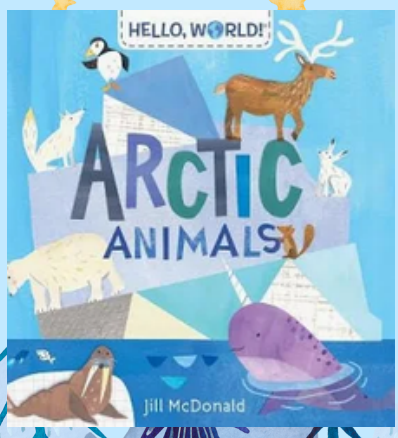


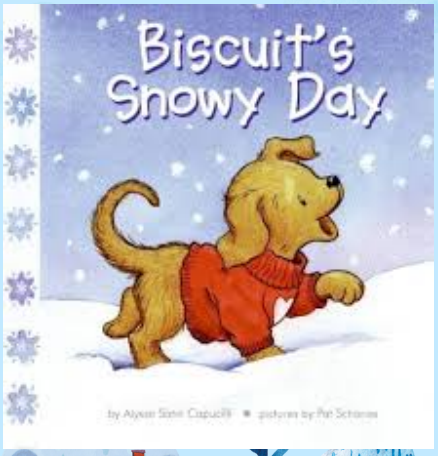










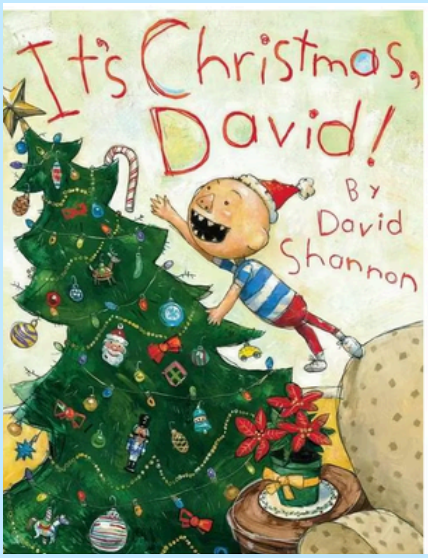


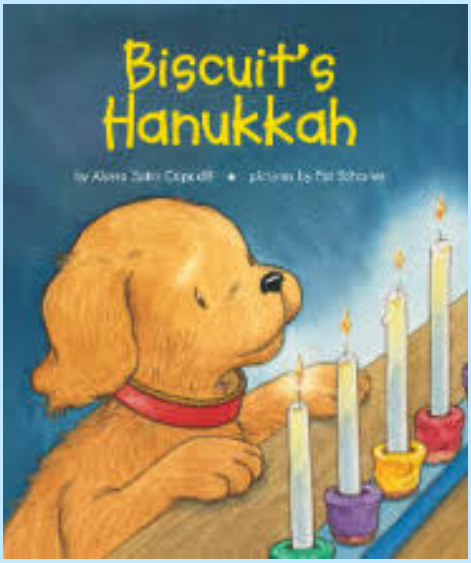


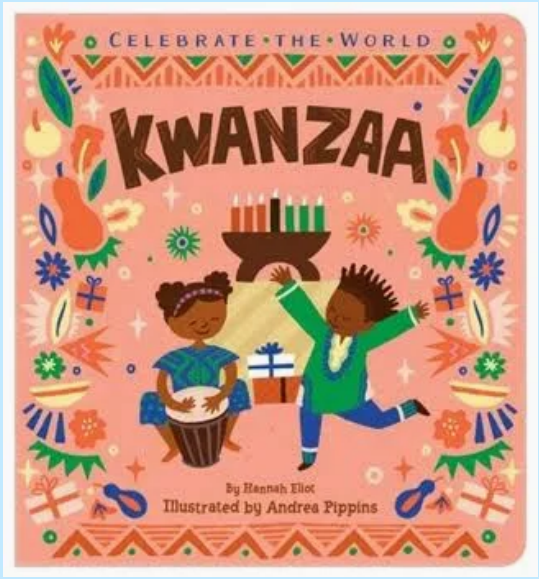
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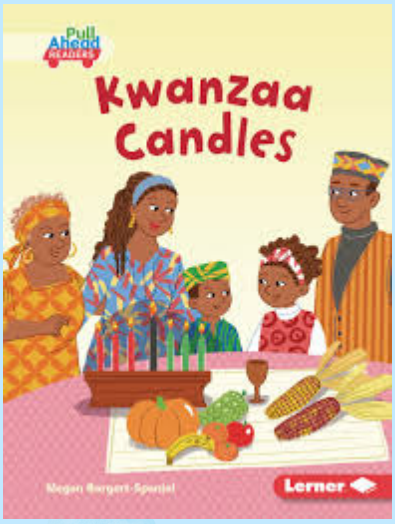
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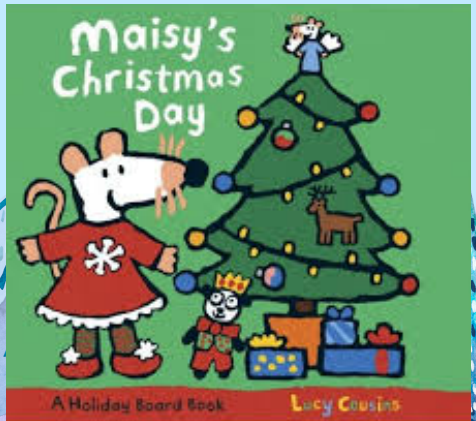


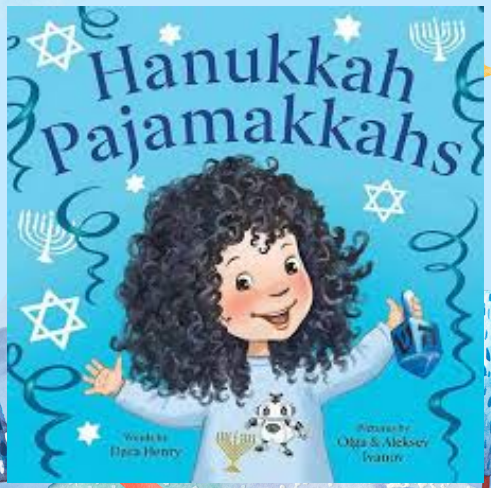


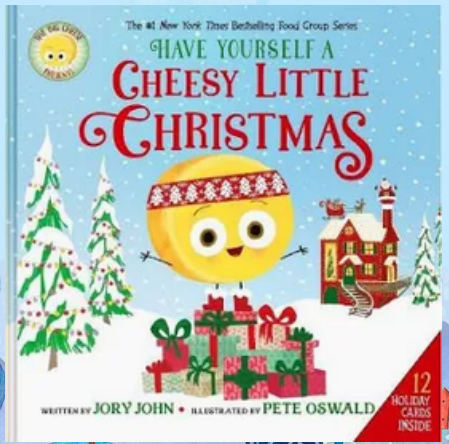












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Bridging School to Home:
What are the preschoolers learning now?

Learning About Clothing:
This month, our preschoolers have been exploring the wonderful world of clothing! Children are learning to name different articles of clothing, notice textures, and talk about how clothing keeps us comfortable throughout the day. Through hands-on play, dress-up activities, and story time, students are discovering who wears what and why—whether it's a cozy sweater for winter, rain boots for puddle jumping, or the special clothing worn by community helpers. This study helps build vocabulary, self-help skills, and confidence as children learn to make choices about what they wear.

Who Wears What?:
Students have been asking big questions about clothing: Why do firefighters need special gear? What makes a uniform a uniform? As we study different community helpers and the clothes they wear, children learn to make connections between jobs, safety, and the tools people use. This topic encourages curiosity, imaginative play, and an understanding of the world around them.

Winter Wonders:
As the weather gets colder, our classrooms are leaning into winter themes! Children are exploring seasonal changes—shorter days, chilly temperatures, frost, and snow. Through books, art, and outdoor observation, students are learning what winter looks and feels like. These discussions help support scientific thinking, descriptive language, and awareness of the natural world!



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Ms Molitor's Class









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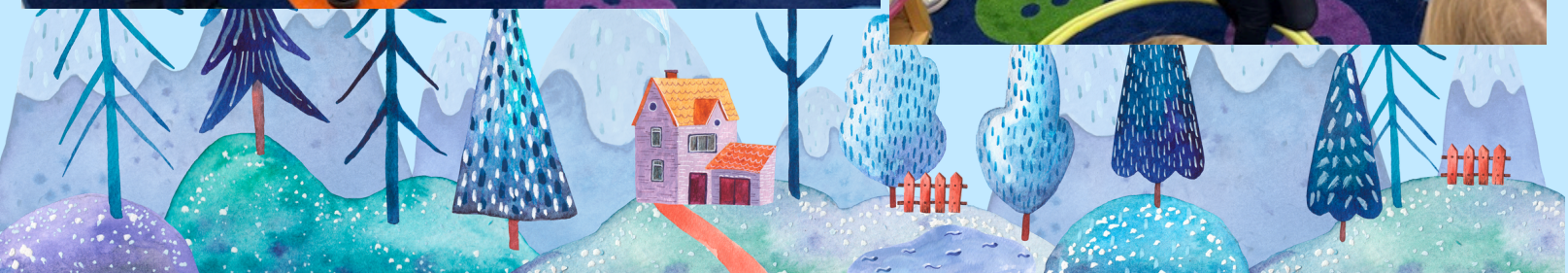
Mrs Longo's Class











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Ms McElroy's Class











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Ms Smith's Class











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December Backpack Series:

Why Play Matters in Preschool!

In preschool, play isn't just play—it's the work of childhood! When children build, pretend, explore, and create, they're actually growing powerful skills that worksheets simply can't teach.

Through play, children learn to:

1. Express big feelings and understand others
2. Build friendships and practice teamwork
3. Solve problems, think creatively, and make decisions
4. Strengthen fine-motor and gross-motor skills
5. Use imagination to try out ideas and make sense of their world

Play is the heart of social-emotional learning, helping children learn how to share, take turns, manage frustration, build confidence, and communicate. **These skills form the foundation for future academic success—yes, even reading and math!**

Worksheets, on the other hand, ask children to sit still, repeat tasks, and fill in answers. They don't build curiosity, independence, cooperation, or emotional understanding. Those essential skills grow best when children can move, explore, talk, discover, and PLAY!

So when you see your child pretending to be a chef, building with blocks, or creating a magical world out of loose parts—know that real learning is happening.

Sincerely,,
Ms Shabon Wilson
Preschool Intervention Referral Specialist



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A Word from Nurse Lauren Madrid:

Upcoming Reminders

Flu vaccination records (for those who are not religiously or medically exempt) are due to the Health office no later than 12/31/25. If your child turns 5 years old prior to 12/31/25 the flu vaccine is recommended, but is not required.

With cold/flu season in full swing, we encourage families to remain diligent with hand washing, proper hydration, and ample rest.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season!!!



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BCS HOLIDAY DRIVE 2025

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARICIPATING IN THE HOLIDAY DRIVE?

The BCS Holiday Drive supports local families in need during the holiday season. We will be accepting New Toys, New Clothing (Winter Jackets, Hats, Gloves, Socks, Etc.) and Monetary donations (checks or gift cards).
Together we can continue to support one another and our community!

***Donations are due to BCS by December 12**



***Sponsored by BBEA**

If you have any questions please contact

Marissa Furnari
furnarim@bcsberlin.org

Heather Pach
pachh@bcsberlin.org