



Leila Day News & Notes

February 2017

Welcome to February from Ashley

Though February is the shortest month of the year, it is filled with so many special days. Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Fat Tuesday, and my favorite, Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (that's coming up this Saturday!) are all opportunities for festivities and celebrations of seasonal change, friendship, love, and all things frozen and delicious! We are looking forward to a February filled with celebrations, big and small.



This beautiful display was created by the children at IRIS to show their gratitude for the wonderful gifts from Leila Day families. Our Fall Community Service & Outreach was a tremendous success. As a result we were able to provide newly resettled refugee children with wonderful educational toys and games. Come and see this installation of gratitude; it's in the hallway of the Educational Wing. And thank you for bringing our Leila Day values to life!

SAVE THE DATE:

2017 Spring Fair Kick-Off Meeting - Thursday, February 16th at 6:30 PM
Hosted by Spring Fair Co-Chairs, Deadra Hart (South & After School Program)
and David Goldstein (Kindergarten)

Join us for pizza, planning, and community building. All parents welcome!

- **Thank You for Everything You Do!**

Thank you to parents Alycia Santilli (Kindergarten), Chloe Shaw (Morning Program), and Laurie Desiato (Kindergarten) for making a delivery to the Bethel AME Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen on behalf of Leila Day. We are grateful for all the donations made in December and January. Let's come together to fill our non-perishable food bin once again. We hope to make another delivery soon and to keep the community food pantry shelves stocked throughout the winter.

- **The Leila Day Fund**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our annual appeal by giving to Leila Day. The Leila Day Fund supports flexible tuition based on our sliding scale, making Leila Day a possibility for children of all backgrounds. Gifts to the Annual Fund also directly impact our staffing and educational program, making it possible for us to create enriching experiences for children that foster curiosity, compassion, and joy. A contribution at any level is meaningful and supports our philosophy and mission. Our aim is for 100% participation from current parents, teachers, administrators, and Board members. Please consider giving; we thank you in advance for your support for Leila Day.

- **Flu Shots**

URGENT: The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood **requires an annual flu shot for all children in preschool programs (ages 6 months to 4 years; this does not include kindergarten).** Children must receive the flu vaccination before December 31st. Please provide documentation of your child's immunization to Sheila. Thank you.

- **Looking Ahead to 2017-2018**

We are very excited about our new online system for the application and enrollment process. Thank you for your patience as we are making our way through the launch. We are learning and experiencing some bumps along the way, but feel our system is much improved. Please reach out to Sheila, Wendy, or Ashley with any questions about enrollment for next year.

- **Inclement Weather, Delays & Snow Days**

When declaring a delay or closure due to snow or bad weather, our first priority is safety. We consider both the importance of children being in school and the safety of teachers and families traveling to Leila Day. We will make the decision to have a delayed opening or school closure by 6:30 am and will communicate through WTNH Channel 8 and an email to all families.

- **Follow Our Adventures on Instagram**

We are capturing the Leila Day experience each day and sharing our adventures on Instagram! Follow us: [@leiladay](https://www.instagram.com/leiladay)

- **AmazonSmile & Mabel's Labels**

Please keep our ongoing fundraisers in mind:

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Leila Day whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. To designate Leila Day as your charitable organization, visit <https://smile.amazon.com> and search for Leila Day after logging in to your Amazon account.

Mabel's Labels are personalized, peel & stick, super-durable labels that safely go in the laundry, dishwasher and microwave. We will receive 20% of all sales when you designate that you are supporting Leila Day. To get started, click on the following link and then select Leila Day from the School/Organization drop-down menu. [Campaigns.mabelslabels.com](https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com)

Nature News from Charlie

February is a wonderful month of the year to get outside and see what is going on. We will be exploring animal adaptations to the cold, snow and winter. We will be looking for animal signs: tracks, scat and homes. And we will be learning about the different kinds of animals and animal diversity in general. We will also be exploring how trees survive the winter, and taking advantage of the fact that the deciduous trees have dropped their leaves. This is an excellent time of year to study the different parts of the tree especially the bark; the roots, trunk, branches, twigs, structure of each kind of tree; and the overall shape and silhouette of each tree. Finally, all the classes are taking advantage of our access to East Rock Park, and taking special field trips to the river and the woods, giving us all a sense of how we are part of a larger ecosystem and natural world that sustains us and can give us great pleasure and happiness if we take care of it and respect our responsibilities to "Mother Earth!"

Lou's Recipe Report

Boat Cake- A Leila Day Tradition!

Ingredients: 3 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup flour
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Tbsp salt
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Tbsp baking soda
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup cocoa
1 $\frac{1}{8}$ cup oil
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold water
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Tbsp vinegar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ Tbsp Vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix dry ingredients together, mix wet ingredients together. Combine wet and dry ingredients and mix until well incorporated. Pour into a parchment lined 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking pan and bake for 45 minutes. Enjoy!

North Class

The North Class "suddenly" grew an evergreen forest, which everyone can see along our fence facing Cold Spring Street. The children helped "plant" the trees, along with any branches that came off. We have also been enjoying our turn with the light table, which makes any translucent object seem to glow!

This week we did "dilution trays" on the light table, next week we will continue mixing colors with the addition of baking soda and vinegar (one of Pam's favorite activities!). The children have also been proudly practicing how to write their names.

South Class

Both inside and outside, South Class continues to explore the changes brought about by winter weather. The children have pulled each other on sleds, looked for animal footprints in the snow, observed water changing from solid to liquid form, and experimented by sprinkling salt onto ice noting the changes. Recently we've launched into the more abstract world of outer space, sparking excitement and imagination. Prior to Valentine's Day, each child will decorate a small bag that will be labeled with his or her symbol. Classmates may deposit cards in these bags (just cards please, no candy or toys.) Please do not address these to particular children, just help your child put his or her name and symbol on cards to be deposited in their classmates' bags.

East Class

In January, The East Class ventured into drawing. The children drew their memories of Winter Break and used their observational skills to draw a self-portrait. It's been an exciting time of development of representational drawing and emerging writing skills! The children have also been interested in tracking the growth of our Amaryllis. We've measured it with Unifix Cubes and have delighted in watching it bloom multiple times. Last week, we also measured the children's height and weight. In the month to come, we look forward to exploring color through scientific experiments and using color-coded handbells to play songs and create patterns.

Morning Program

The Morning Program class is happy to be settled back into our routines, projects, and play. We have begun learning about space and have collaborated with the After School Program children who share our classroom to make awesome paper mache planets. We will continue to explore this theme throughout February as we turn our big block area into a space station and work on building our own rockets and planets using different materials.

We have also brought an early spring to our classroom, planting paperwhites and an amaryllis together as a class. The children have loved watering them each week and measuring them daily. We have studied them closely, drawing and painting our observations.

We've been excited to see all the incredible building happening lately in our small block area, and we have watched many friendships growing during play in our house corner as the children learn to "cook" together, share, and help each other get fancy in our dress up clothes.

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have been diving into our social emotional development. The children have been working on getting to know themselves and their peers through interactive greeting meetings and self-exploration.

We expanded on our habitat studies by exploring the various places humans live. We discovered that like animals in their habitats, humans also need shelter, space, nutrients, water and love to live a healthy life. The children compared the differences and similarities between the suburban, urban, and rural communities. We made the connection that although there are big, tall, buildings around New Haven, our Leila Day neighborhood has more of a suburban feel.

The students had a lot of fun in math this month. The students furthered their number sense by decomposing the number five through art, and worked on creating number sentences using a variety of materials.

After School Program

The ASP Program is growing and jelling as a family and a team. We work things out in our meetings, meditation, one on one talks and small groups. Strong, healthy, cheerful, relationships are at the foundation of good teaching and learning! We have been studying the mysteries of the origin of the earth—"we are all stardust"- and the majesty of our solar system-"my place in space is called planet earth/earth is the place where my momma gave birth!" At the moment we have some beautiful "ice paintings" up on the wall (ask the kids what "ice paintings" means), and a papier mache solar system the kids built. The kids have been having fun making beaded and braided jewelry and reading the "My Father's Dragon" series. In February we will be exploring animal diversity and adaptations to the winter. It is also a wonderful time to learn about the trees, their bark and roots, trunks, branches, twigs buds, seeds and their overall place in our ecosystem. Finally, even if some of the kids occasionally groan about "hiking," everybody is feeling at home in East Rock Park. As we spend more time in the woods and around the river, the woods and the river become part of them and they become part of the woods and the river! See you soon. Amber and Charlie love to chat about your kids and what we are doing together at Leila Day!

Mark Your Calendars: A Glance Ahead

2017 Spring Fair Kick-Off!

Thursday, Feb. 16th, 6:30 PM

February Break, No School

Monday, Feb. 20th - Monday, Feb. 27th

Children return to school Tuesday, Feb. 28th.

WinterFest

Sunday, March 5th, Time TBD

Eat, Drink & Be Literary- LD Book Club Meeting

March TBD

