

First Grade, Magic Moon Newsletter 1/11- 1/15

Katy Ailes • Saturday, Jan 16 at 5:00 PM • **1st Grade -Katy/Deb**

Greetings, first grade families!

Here are some highlights from our week:

We continued our study of **gender identity** this week, and our art teacher, Lisa, shared a wonderful lesson about gender stereotypes. Together we looked at images of “toys for girls” and “toys for boys” from the internet. We thought about what we noticed, and what types of gender stereotypes emerged from this investigation. We will continue this work with Lisa next week in art!

On Thursday, we learned about **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** as a child and a family man, and we learned about his values in preparation for the assembly on Friday. We talked about service as one of Dr. King’s core values, and we made a connection to a present day opportunity in Oakland to honor Dr. King’s legacy through service. Each year the City of Oakland hosts a Day of Service on Dr. King’s birthday. Due to the pandemic, folks can not gather this year for service projects, so the City of Oakland is providing opportunities for folks to participate in 40 days of service from home. You can find more information about MLK 40 Days of Service [here](#).

The Bears Are Here!

We also took time this week to introduce the children to the bears that will be joining our community! Based on a trauma informed curriculum developed by Lesley Koplow, from Bank Street College of Education in New York City, each child will be given their very own teddy bear. The children will give their bears a name, and make an apartment and clothing for their bears. We will

use the bears to help us reframe our classroom agreements: How will we make this a safe and welcoming community for our bears and for us? The bears will serve as a transitional object, as well as a impartial, non judgmental attachment partner. As the year progresses, we will work with the bears in many areas of the curriculum, including as a way to speak about feelings and experiences that are difficult to talk about directly.

Ask me about....

Literacy

What is the difference between a blend and a digraph?

What is a word that has both a blend and a digraph?

Math

How many cents is a penny worth? A nickel? A dime?

What is a double plus 1 fact? ($9 + 9$; $9 + 10$)

Cultural Studies

What is a gender stereotype?

What is something you learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr?

SEL

How are you feeling about the changes in routine next week?

