

Good afternoon Parents,

What a week! Although it was a bit shorter with our snow day Monday and early dismissal Wednesday, we learned LOADS more about simple machines.

It was all about wheels and axles in room 1 the past few days! Simple machines are truly everywhere as we have come to notice much more this week. For example, while at the park, a few of our friends decided to build an igloo, but needed some help bringing snowballs bigger than them from the other side of the park. They tried to find sticks to roll the snowballs on top, but it was a little difficult given the amount of snow. However, they took this positively and said it's better for their bodies anyway because they become stronger when lifting things!

To help us better understand what in the world a wheel and axle actually is and does, we conducted a few experiments. First, we wanted to test out how to move heavy objects such as a brick and a "slab of concrete" (it was just our gram weights;) from one end of the hall or classroom to the next. What could we use? Why does this work better than that? Could we use different objects to roll our brick or no? Why? We had a blast finding and testing our different items from our classroom! Some things we used were markers, colored pencils, chalk, checkers pieces, crayons, glue sticks, paint brushes, and paper towel rolls! We also built tracks with inclined planes and even created our own clay molds of wheels and axles. The class also made some awesome connections to places where they have noticed wheels and axles being used such as at the library, the airport, and the grocery store.

Learning about wheels and axles also got us talking a lot about friction! Woo! New word alert! We noticed that when you try to push something heavy on the ground, there's a lot of friction and it makes it pretty hard to move your object! Yet when we place our heavy item on wheels and roll it across, there's less friction and it's much easier to move something heavy a far distance! We learned that if friction didn't exist, we would be living QUITE dangerously. Ask your child why!

Please have your child practice the following songs with you for our holiday program!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMhMekflyos&index=2&list=PLcax3SyKo3NWD6fJcRn2K4GgkQ3kMo2C>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57H66U9v8LU&list=PLcax3SyKo3NWD6fJcRn2K4GgkQ3kMo2C&index=3>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFh8kml_0yc&list=PLcax3SyKo3NWD6fJcRn2K4GgkQ3kMo2C&index=4

Reminders:

- Please be mindful of others in the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up! Especially when pulling up to the front for a quick drop-off in the morning.

- Ms. Bridget's class is collecting new and gently used books for their service project! Please consider donating any books you may have for birth-grade 6 children and help us reach the 500 book goal!

Have a fabulous weekend! Don't forget to read with your child and record their books and time for Read to Succeed:)

-Ms. Anna