

*If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do keep moving forward.*

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

### **January Unit Topics**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. exploration, and beginning exploration of Peacemakers globally (age appropriate) and daily self practices. Families are encouraged to look up MLK's speeches to hear him.
- Beginning Self Portraits
- Pacific Northwest beavers biome, family and social dynamics and their vital importance in our global ecosystem
- Winter birds (wobblers, chickadees, Oregon Juncos, downy/Pileated/Northern Flicker woodpeckers)
- Pacific archipelagos
- Snowflakes, clouds, differing forms of water exploring liquid and solid
- Continued fun practice of partner dancing (waltz, foxtrot, salsa) and etiquette introduction as well as yoga storytelling, large parachute and movement/theater warm-ups
- **LATE START Mentor Thursdays: January 9 & 30th**

### **Reminders & Thank you**

- **No School Monday January 20**, Dr. King remembrance and honoring
- **January 6th Re-Enrollment forms for AM/PM & LATE START and deposit due**
- **January is Peace March Month (wear rainbow colors all month!)** we make signs for peace and make a lot of joyful, clear chanting around the Ellisport neighborhood.
  - Chant: Klahanie kids are might, mighty kids and mighty, mighty kids they are!  
They work (live, play, etc) for peace, they work for love, they work for harmony!
  - Intention of this is to encourage children to voice their appreciation of what it means to call out what a peace maker is, and feel the power of loud noise being unified for communicating connection and empathy support.
- **Thank you for the sweet Holiday Gifts from families to teachers, such kindness!**
- Thank you Jen, Toby, Laurel and Gillian for the Play-dough and Dan's grandma Heidi for all the cutouts! Thank you classmate Dan and family friends for donating the peace capes to class garden time!

*Only in the darkness can you see the stars. ~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

Along with revisiting our daily routine we will begin to focus our attention and circle-time lessons on Martin Luther King Jr. MLK is the first of many Peacemakers we will study from around the world. We begin the discussion of civil rights using age appropriate and relatable-fictionalized stories along with open-ended questions the children can identify with. I also like to continue incorporating examples and role-playing of classroom community issues to assist the children in finding greater practice and understanding of human rights, empathy and compassion development through listening and sharing.

To celebrate MLK day we will make personalized “I have a dream” clouds for all children who want to participate. The clouds state what the child’s dreams are for the future of self, family, community, world and imagination. These clouds will be hung in the classroom until the end of school in June. We will make MLK posters and a lot of joyful noise the month of January and celebrate when inspired by the class in Peace Marches the entire month. We chant, with improvisation:

***“Martin Luther King was a mighty, mighty man and a mighty, mighty man was he. He worked for peace, he worked for love, and he worked for harmony!”***

While celebrating an Anti-bias classroom, we also chant for ourselves as peacemakers and begin making self-portraits January-March. Each child will have the opportunity to observe their features in a mirror then with the assistance of an adult, create a self-portrait that will be displayed in the class until the end of the school year.

January and February we will be introducing different musicians, authors/poets and artists focus that have had important roles in using his/her art as a tool for looking for answers to world injustices.

***“A simple and exhilarating truth: music and open, honest, human-to-human communication can shift ideologies and create meaningful change” (Lee Hirsch).***

We will celebrate during January and February, Pete Seeger and the Staples family. These musicians actively took the messages of MLK to the next level for bringing awareness of civil peace and equality in their own communities and beyond using their gift of song. Please come in to help us sing if you feel inspired or have a love of music and play-instrument(s) please email.

This unit study is close to our hearts for it stimulates the children to look deeply and proudly at ways they themselves are peacemakers in varying healthy ways. We look forward to hearing your home observations of family conversations and questions asked by your child while we study Martin Luther King Jr. and extended Peacemakers.

***Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. ~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.***

