

# NEWSLETTER

UNB Preschool

January 2005



## Tsunami Relief Effort

During our December break, a tragic and unfortunate event happened on the other side of the world. Being half a world away did not stop us from reaching out a helping hand to countries torn apart by the ravages of nature. The class organized a bake sale in the early part of January, with half of the proceeds of the bake sale going to a tsunami relief fund (that 'half' was matched by the Early Childhood Centre). Also, the class initiated a "penny drive", with jars placed throughout Marshall D'Avray Hall. As well parents took jars home for contributions from friends, family and co-workers. The January bake sale raised \$343.90, with \$172.00 from the Early Childhood Centre, and the penny drive raised an awesome \$578.06 for a grand total of \$1,093.96!

Part of the experience of our Tsunami relief effort involved a very special new friend to our class, Kugan Vinayagasothy. Kugan is a student in the Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering department. His family is from Sri Lanka, and they were caught in the tsunami that rolled over the Sri Lankan shores. Although his family members survived, their entire town was destroyed. Kugan and the staff of the maps section of the Harriet Irving Library organized a field trip for our class. The children learned about the Tsunami's impact via computer simulations and gained a better understanding geographically, of that area of the planet through a variety of maps. They also decided to draw pictures in hopes of raising the spirits of Kugan's family.

Because they handled so many coins through the bake sale and penny drive, the children learned many new grouping skills relevant to their growing knowledge of counting. Groups of 5 or 10 had to be transformed into groups of 25 or 50, as coins were rolled in preparation to go to the bank.

Kugan and the children will present a cheque to the Red Cross. This wonderful feat has been possible because of the support of our entire preschool community. For your participation, we thank you very much!



A Tidal Wave - Justin



Re-building A House - Gaby



A House After they Get Help  
-Craig

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## Celebrating the Season

In December we were 'celebrating the season'. One of the ways we did this was to learn about various celebrations from different cultures. Participating in activities that represent a variety of cultural viewpoints, gives us different ways of looking at the world in addition to our own. When we celebrate diverse traditions and values, we aim to create "Feelings of worth can flourish only in an atmosphere in which individual differences are appreciated, ...—the kind of atmosphere found in a nurturing family." (Satir, 1987)

We were absolutely thrilled to have Joseph Samuel, an alumnus from last year, take a day off from his kindergarten, to share his joy of Hanukkah. He explained how to play dreidel and talked about the meaning of the Hebrew letters on the dreidel. He also explained the eight candles of the menorah beginning with the schemas candle the first night, the candle that lights the other seven nights. Joseph read "Is It Hanukkah Yet?" to the class, which was enjoyed by all, and made Kimi & Glenn very proud, indeed.

The holiday season is not all tinsel and wrapping, however, and December became the perfect time to sing songs and create music. Our education students helped create 'bands' where children felt comfortable singing and playing their own 'unique' versions of holiday favourites. Anne Rutter and Sandy Goodine came in to lead sing-songs, and the "Dreidel Song" became a class favourite - hardly a day went by without hearing it in some form!

Ben and Anita Newling helped the children to create their own unique setting for snowflakes - framed by the silvery reflection of a CD - an aesthetic keepsake that we hope will stay with them in the future.

Carrol Long made a holiday wreath and Dawna Riding baked with the children. There was lots of measurement language, comparisons of cups with half cups, tablespoons with teaspoons. And of course lots of treats!



Granny Owens decorating gingerbread



Joeshph Reading to Our Class



Music with Sandy and Glenn



Let's Count Snowflakes with Kayla!