



Barlina House Preschool



CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT

One E. Crystal Lake Avenue
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Administration: 815-459-0680

Preschool: 815-477-5403

Fax: 815-477-5005

**Miss Jen & Mrs. Nicole
MWF**

**News From the Director,
Cathy Kuntz**

Last month we celebrated the Superbowl, Valentine's Day and Groundhog's Day. We had an informative and fun library field trip, where the children took a tour around Crystal Lake Public Library. In our classroom, we began discussing our alphabet during circle time, worked on memorizing our addresses and continued to work on writing our names. We also completed our letter-writing project. We were busy bees!

This month, we will continue to work hard on writing our names and learning the letters of the alphabet. As spring approaches, we will make spring related crafts to learn more about the changing season. We will also begin our animal unit where we will read animal related books, create animal crafts and play in the vet station in our classroom. This month, we will also have a special, mischievous leprechaun visit our classroom. We will work together as a class to discover where he hid his gold.

As the weather begins to warm up, we will be venturing outside more frequently. Please remember to include hats and gloves so that all children can run and play comfortably.

As always, please contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you!

The children and teachers are all hoping for warmer weather this month so we can have more time for outside play. Outdoor play is purposefully included in our day for motor skills, cooperation, socialization and fresh air. Also, with the challenges of dressing for our climate during the winter months, self-help skills are learned. There is a feeling of freedom in outdoor play, being able to run and shout and play hard, that allows children to test their strength and independence in a way that is difficult to do indoors. Perhaps that is why an hour spent playing outside in fresh air so often results in children who will later play more contentedly indoors. In fact, children who frequently miss outdoor playtime may also be missing out on its physical and educational benefits. If the temperature is above 20 degrees, we will take the children outside; please continue to send proper outer wear so your child can enjoy their outdoor time.

We all enjoyed our library field trips last month. The library employees, in the youth section, did a wonderful job providing a tour, reading stories and singing songs. After all that there was still time for the children to do puzzles, look at books and play quietly. Our thanks to all the parents for your cooperation in providing drop off and pick up at the library.

This month, we will be going on another field trip. We will all meet at Grand Oaks Recreation Center for a fun-filled day of sports activities. Drop off and pick up will be at the recreation center (regular class times). More information regarding this field trip will be sent home with your child.

Don't forget to register for our Bedtime Stories on March 16th and April 4th. Cost is \$5.00/child and open to all preschool aged children. Other Park District activities include a Mom/Son Luau on March 10th or 11th and Breakfast with the Bunny on April 1st or 8th. These activities and more are listed on the Park District Website (crystallakeparks.org) and also in the Winter/Spring Brochure.

Barlina House will be closed during the last week of March for Spring Break. Classes will resume on Monday, April 3rd.