

# News from the Blue Group

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### Welcome to the second Newsletter of this 'school' year!

We start this letter by introducing four girls whom you all know already of course.. We are happy to have Alisa, Kim Vy, May and Anna joining us from the Yellow Group just before Christmas! They are settling in well and are already making new friends as well as continue to play with each other.



### Santa's visit to the Blue Group!

All the children had their favorite clothes on: From princesses to fairies to super heroes. They were all excited to know that Santa first visited the Kiddies and would then come up. They all kept looking at the door. When Santa came in he sat with us on the floor, legs crossed of course. After a little chat about where the reindeer were and his sleigh (on the roof??) Santa got his presents out one by one and asked the children if they could help him read the names. They helped Santa and waited until everybody had a present. When the children unwrapped their presents, they were so excited with their books and toys!

We had a great time together! All the children got their wishes: something about princesses or something to build. They looked pleased! We sang "Jingle Bells" with Santa before he left to see other children.



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## Independence

When children come back from a long holiday, it is great to see how they have become bigger and more confident when they come back to class. They easily slip back into the routine and don't require a lot of reminding like before the holidays. Besides choosing their daily 'jobs' in class which the children really enjoy, we also work on other self help skills:

This means that they learn to dress/undress themselves, deal with buttons, zips and other fasteners, as well as helping each other with it. It also means learning to spread and cut their own bread at lunch times and how to brush their teeth by themselves. We further teach the children to put things in their own bags: this includes accessories such as bracelets, rings, necklaces but also things they have made. We teach the children how to roll up their papers, or fold them so that they fit easier into their bags.

This takes time for the children to learn. It is a lot of small motor skills building, hand-eye co-ordination and planning: 'what do I put in the bag first, what second and so on'. We encourage the children to put their bags on their own shoulders and carry their belongings with them. They put on their own shoes and walk down the stairs taking 'big steps': one foot on one stair.

These kinds of activities builds up a lot of confidence, once they know how to handle this many tasks!! They really are the Big Kids!

All this is done in preparation for when they go eventually to a primary school. Please encourage your child to do the same at home: she / he will be proud to show you how they do this!

It also means for you that you give your child the time to do these tasks. After all: practice makes perfect!



Story time before sleeping, folding clothes and wait for friends, dishing out your own lunch, choosing your own activity. These are tasks that the Big Kids do on a daily basis.



After the ride, we sat together, had lots of water and talked about our experiences.

Conclusion? When do we do it again?

The "SmartKids Angels" Took a ride outside on the street!! They were soo excited! Some brought their own bikes and showed their skills!

## Other news..

This week there will be a Dragon Dance.. More about this in the next News letter!!

Thank you for your ongoing support!!

Bye! Ms. Monique, Ms. Shendie and Ms. Juliette