

BOWMAN KINDERGARTEN WINTER**Teacher**

- **In place of a scheduled winter walk, bring in to classroom cuttings from a tree, preferably an aspen, red maple, or gray birch.**

Objectives:

- Observe and compare winter with fall; talk about snow and ice.
- What has happened to plants in winter?
- Discover how trees grow; tips of branches.
- Compare tree buds; predict what will happen to the buds.
- Plant seeds in the classroom.

Discussion:**1. Review fall walk.**

Encourage the children to think about their fall walk. What did they discover? Look at the chart of things they saw, smelled, touched, and heard on their fall walk, and at the drawings or murals they made.

2. Discuss winter in the schoolyard.

How has the schoolyard changed in winter? Are the colors the same? Smells? Sounds? What about temperature? Would they be comfortable in shorts? Is the sun as warm as it was last summer? Winter means that the air and the ground are cold, and there are fewer hours of sunlight. Could they make a good leaf collection now? Will they find rain puddles on the ground? Or ice? Why? What happens to water when it gets very cold? How do they make ice cubes? Does it rain on a very cold winter day?

3. Discuss what happens to plants in winter.

What do they think is happening to plants outdoors in winter? What has changed for plants? Think about plants in their classroom. Are they still green and growing? How is the environment different for plants in the schoolyard? It's cold outdoors. Water is frozen and plants can't use frozen water. There isn't much sunlight. Do children think those changes have affected plants? How? Do plants need to be warm to grow?

What is happening to the roots they looked at last fall? The roots of many plants sleep in the frozen ground all winter. Scientists say that trees and many small plants become "**dormant**" in the winter, sleeping under a blanket of snow until it gets warm again. The snow helps to protect plants from the cold air. It's hard to think of cold snow as a blanket protecting roots from getting too cold!

4. Look at seeds.

Remember all those seeds we found last fall? What happens when we plant a seed? It grows to become a brand new plant! Some plants die in the fall when it gets cold, leaving seeds behind. Optional: Bring in some seeds to plant and see what happens

4. Draw Pictures.

Have children draw a picture or as a class make a seasonal mural of their schoolyard in winter to compare with the fall drawings or mural. Talk about changes in colors. Think about what makes winter special. Would someone looking at their drawing know what season it was without being told? What are the most important things about winter in their schoolyard?

Look at the picture they drew of a plant and its plant parts in the fall. Draw another picture of a plant and its parts in winter.

Questions?

Questions contact the current PTA Big Backyard coordinator