

*Dear Family,*

**In my class today** I explored how some animals stay warm in winter.

**Did You Know?**

- Many regions experience much colder weather in the winter. People cope with winter by wearing warmer clothing, including coats, hats, scarves, mittens, and boots. Many animals prepare for winter by eating all summer and fall to build up a layer of fat or blubber to protect them from the cold winter weather. In our experiment the shortening acted as blubber, or fat, to keep our hands warm.
- Blubber is a thick layer of fat beneath the skin of marine animals. Blubber is found in animals such as whales, dolphins, porpoises, walruses, seals, manatees, and polar bears. Blubber acts like an insulator to protect these animals from the cold temperatures found in oceans and lakes during the winter. Other animals that live on land build up a layer of fat beneath the skin to protect them and give them energy during the cold winter months.

**Ask Your Child:**

- What did you use for your experiment?
- Describe how the icy water felt.
- Explain why one of your hands could stand the icy water longer than the other.

**Activities To Do With Your Child:**

- Take your child to the zoo in the winter. Discuss the animals that you see and how they stay warm in the winter. Can your child find any animals that hibernate, or sleep most of the winter?
- Take a walk around your neighborhood and ask your child to observe ways that winter is coming. Discuss how plants and animals prepare for winter. Talk about how you prepare for winter.

**Vocabulary To Use With Your Child:** blubber, winter, shortening, skin, fat, protect