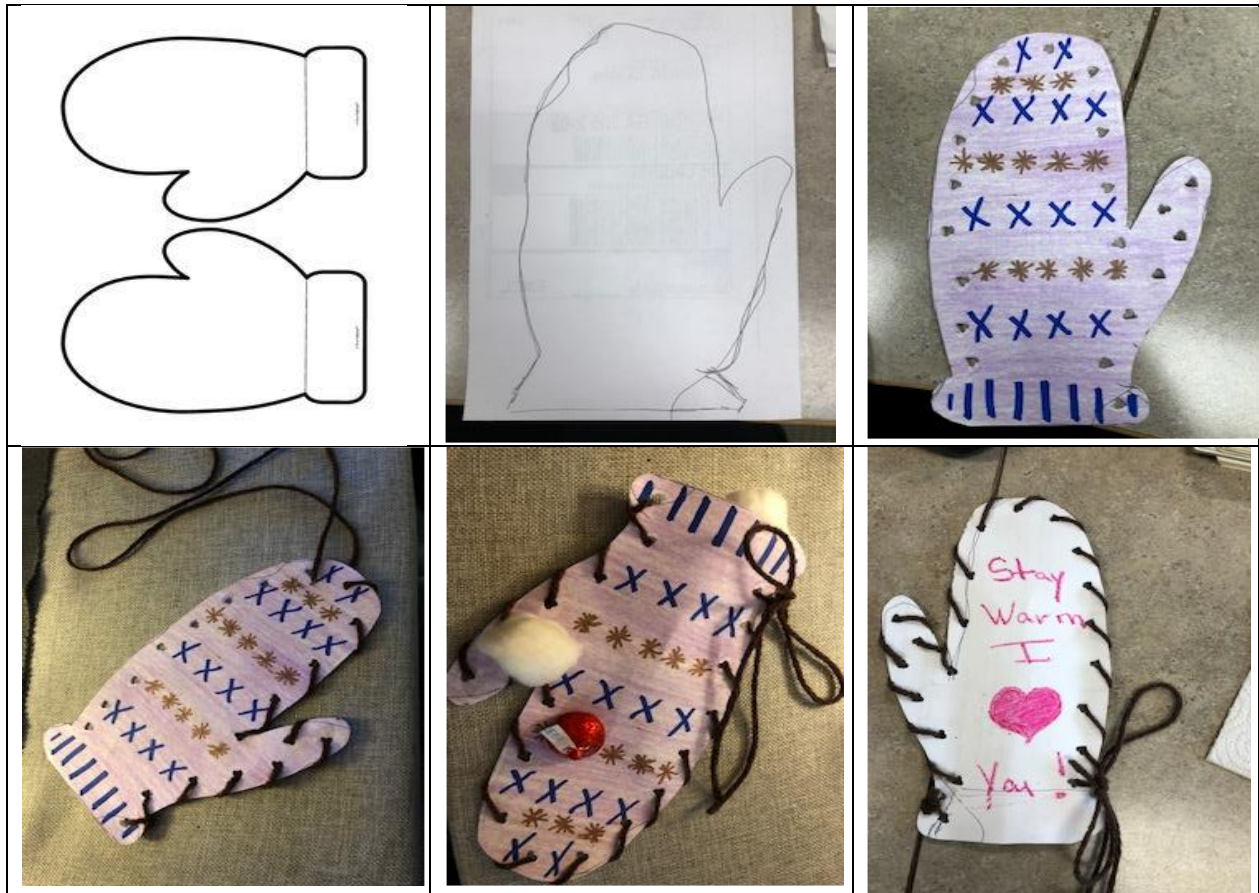


This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. You know, "It's cold outside baby!" So this week, we are going to create some warm fun for inside. Trace your hand to make some mittens to use for playing games. Mittens keep your hands warm by bunching your fingers together to retain heat. Working and playing, bunched together with family and friends keeps your heart warm, too. In the nineteenth century, people even created poetry mittens with verses woven into the mitten.



1-Draw a pair of mittens on a piece of paper, heavy cardstock, cardboard, or a paper grocery bag. Or you can trace your own handprint or the handprint of a friend or family member. Make two opposite but matching mittens. Decorate and color the mittens. Cut them out and match them back to back. Punch holes all around the edge, leaving the bottom open. Weave a piece of yarn, string, or shoelace through the holes, going from back to front all the way around the outside edge. Make sure to leave the straight side of the mitten open like a pocket. You could even write a poem or message on the outside of the mittens. Make one, a pair, or lots more.

2-Here is the fun part! Fill the mitten(s) with cotton balls, chocolate kisses, or a message. Hide the mitten around the house for someone to locate and find the special treat. Write numbers on the mittens and add up the points for each player, as they find them. Hide activity cards inside the mittens to play. Ex. 1-Jump up and down 3 times, 2-Walk in a circle for 1 minute with a snowball on your head. Just a few to try or place the mittens on a wooden spoon and use it to have an inside snowball fight with the cotton balls. Or just write a loving note on the mitten and put in someone's lunch.

Keep your hands and your hearts warm!

-Ms. Susan

