This month we explored building. The children talked about the importance of a strong foundation, drawing a blueprint for their design and construction of a structure.

Children sang and moved to songs like: “Johnny Taps with One Hammer” (using rhythm sticks) and “In and Out the Window”. We read the stories, “Building a House” by Byron Barton, and “Construction Zone” by Cheryl Hudson. After reading the book “Block City” by Robert Louis Stevenson, the children built their own structures using blocks of different shapes and colors.

On a walk around campus, the children enjoyed finding the different shaped building elements in the real world. In the Discovery Area, friends stirred plaster of paris and water together in cups to make a cement-like mold. They also built house boats using floating blocks in the water table and painted the PPG building at the easel. In the sand table, friends used trucks and workers to build in a construction site. Friends used various materials for building including: plastic cups, paper, magna-tiles, wooden planks and play dough. They also enjoyed sculpting in shaving cream, goop, Insta-Snow and Floam.

January also meant a new year and a perfect time to start using the calendar at circle time. Each day a new child helps lead the song and looks out the window to tell us the weather. We also celebrated Martin Luther King Jr’s birthday in the middle of the month with stories, crafts and an afternoon concert. It has been a joy to have the practicum students from Duksung Women’s University come to join all the fun! Miss Lee and Miss Kim taught the children about traditional clothing and crowns from the past. They decorated spinning tops with the children and read stories. The children really enjoyed spending time with them.
DESIGNING, BUILDING, SCULPTING AND READING

(STARTING WITH TOP-LEFT AND MOVING CLOCKWISE...)
* ROXY BALANCING ON TOP OF COLUMNS.
* RYAN AND FRIENDS MAKE THEIR BLUEPRINTS.
* SANTIAGO USES HIS MUSCLES TO MASH PLAY DOUGH.
* JACOBO READS ABOUT CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES WITH MISS KIM.
FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS IN ACTION

Roxy and Saatwik take a ride together.

Ryan fills columns with goop.

Jacob stretches to his toes at gym.

Santiago building a Lego home for dinosaurs.

The Three’s take a Campus Walk in search of different building shapes.
This month, the children have had a diverse learning experience with building. In the final week, we have been discussing how animals build homes too. We are excited to transition into learning more about how birds build their nests and all the other unique aspects of our feathered friends.

We want to thank our new friends, Miss Kim and Miss Lee and wish them the best of luck as educators in the future. It has been enriching for both the children and teachers to learn about a different culture and traditions. We appreciate the passion and enthusiasm that Miss Kim and Miss Lee brought to the Blue and Red Room each day. We wish all the Duksung students safe and happy travels in DC and NYC and on their return trip home.

Thank you to the parents that visited the classroom this month: those who joined us for the MLK Day celebration and Mrs. Ammirati who baked with the children for Michael’s birthday and the Mendez family who read stories and sang with us on Jacobo’s birthday.

We are looking forward to February’s Whole School Unit: Birds and Flight!

Mrs. Tømer      Mr. Salinetro      Ms. Stevens