Theatre was our whole school unit during February and early March. Using diverse books and materials, our inquiry has been focused on central questions, such as, “What is theatre?”, “What makes up a stage?”, and “How can we perform?”

Through our “Theatre” unit, children were exposed to many theatre elements, such as stage, setting, props, roles and costumes. Friends explored types of performance, such as puppetry, dance, plays, and opera.

They created their own shoebox stages with stick puppet performers and props out of wooden blocks. Much of our “Theatre” unit was devoted to many performances of the “Soup Opera” by Jim Gill. Children learned about this type of theatre by learning lines, setting the stage, selecting and wearing costumes, and portraying the characters in the opera.

Some children wanted to be a different character each time we performed, while others preferred to help with the production from behind the stage. We always had a lively but very polite audience of Three’s children during each performance.

The “Soup Opera” was truly a fun and meaningful way to experience theatre together! Throughout the whole school Theatre unit, children got to take part in many special visits and experiences.

Children visited CMU’s theatre with Maggie’s mom, Sarah. Children got to see the stage getting set for the recent “Ragtime” performance. Three’s friends also gained experience visiting the stage’s prop shop and a ballet class. Attack Theatre members worked with children to think and move like dancers. We learned that this form of performance requires hard work and practice to make it look easy.

We also were involved in a light demonstration with Lucy’s dad, Jono, who showed us how using different lighting effects can help show different emotions or scenery. Gym with Mrs. Wendolowski was focused on “Theatre,” with active acting games. Tennis ball props became magic apples to support our eye hand coordination.
EMELINE ASSUMING THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR IN "THE SOUP OPERA".

WILDER AND CECILIA EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW INSTRUMENTS IN MUSIC CLASS.

RUTHIE’S PARENTS READING A BOOK TO THE CLASS AND TEACHING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

JAYCEE ADDING PAINT TO HER SHOEBOX STAGE FLOOR.

ARIANNA AND BRANDEN PERFORMING "THE SOUP OPERA" IN THE BLUE ROOM.

EMELINE ASSUMING THE ROLE OF THE MAYOR IN "THE SOUP OPERA".

ISAAC SHOWING HIS MOVES OUTSIDE ON THE PLAYGROUND.

WILDER AND CECILIA EXPERIMENTING WITH NEW INSTRUMENTS IN MUSIC CLASS.

Lights, Camera, Action!
EXPLORATIONS AT THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL

EMELINE CO-STARRING WITH RAJ IN "THE SOUP OPERA".

CLAES CREATING A CHARACTER FOR HIS FOX PUPPET.

JAYCEE AS PRESIDENT WITH RONI AND CECILIA.

ISAAC MAKING HIS PUPPET COME ALIVE!

RAJ AND WILDER DRAWING WITH CHALK IN THE RED ROOM.

CLAES WORKING HARD WITH A TRUCK OUTSIDE.
WHAT WE LEARNED...

Parts of a theatre:
...stage
...audience
...backstage
...curtains
...orchestra pit

Actors:
...pretend
...wear costumes
...use props

How we perform:
...Singing
...Puppetteering
...Dancing

Our next unit will be “Ocean”