Our school-wide “Terrific Textiles” theme made a natural debut at the end of our last theme (“Children Around the World”) as we looked further into the idea that children in Malawi make their own soccer balls using things they can find like plastic bags and scraps of textiles. We used plastic bags, tape, torn fabric scraps and netting from orange bags to make and improve upon our own balls. Then the balls helped us to practice our over and under handed throwing skills and made the theme transition engaging.

As we started to talk, sing and read about and explore textiles, we looked at our clothing and the bulletin board we walk by each day with all the different fabrics on it. We used many different texture words and realized that certain characteristics make textiles useful for specific purposes. We washed fabric and hung it to dry in the Discovery Area and had the opportunity to observe different textiles in water. Cotton collages gave us the chance to manipulate cotton balls and Q tips.

As we expanded our knowledge, we learned where the fibers in textiles come from. Many of our songs, stories and activities were about sheep. We sheared pretend sheep and collected bags full of wool just like “The three bags full” in “Baa Baa Black Sheep”. We looked at a cotton plant, T shirt and washcloth as we learned about cotton.

We revisited our cotton collages as we learned about how textiles are dyed and we used watercolors and eye droppers to dye the cotton. The friends were so interested in this aspect of our study, that we started to dye everything! Paper towels and all different fabrics became fair game for our dyeing activity!

Finally, we created with textiles by making our own bean bags, collaborative framed fabric art, decorations made from yarn-wrapped sticks to bring nature inside, clothing for our paper dolls, yarn wrapped hearts for Valentine’s Day and many more textile creations!

Our textile books and songs quickly became favorites. “The Mitten”, “Lizette’s Green Sock” and Nancy Shaw’s sheep series were read, reread and enacted! Now as we move through each day, the friends can often be heard excitedly identifying textiles they come across! We are connecting our learning at school to our everyday life!

The friends enjoy music class by dancing up and down with the slide whistle.

Our cotton collages became the backdrop for our experiments with dyeing textiles.

We collaged with fabric.
So many new experiences!

Connor and Julia surrounded by the fabric parachute during Mrs. Hraber’s music circle.

Connor creating a building using tape (from a Korean dispenser) and recyclables.

John takes his cotton collage project to the next step by using watercolor and a dropper to dye the cotton.

Evren tries the glue gun to attach fabric pieces to a collaborative textile collage.

Alisa starts a handmade soccer ball using plastic bags wrapped in fabric.

Isaiah and Harris work together to rebuild a Lego creation.
Isaiah aims for the pin with his crocheted ball.

Aya keeps the beat.

Max and Connor are focused during a special Chinese New Year’s circle.

Juila places the last few pieces in a number puzzle.

Connor tries weaving ribbon during a visit to the make shop.

Isaiah aims for the pin with his crocheted ball.

Free choice is often a time for sharing books.
WE ARE CONFIDENT!

Evren chooses his fabric square for a collaborative collage project.

Julia sings along to “What’s the Weather?”.

Intense concentration as Harris fills his bean bag in the Make Shop.

Evren watches in amazement as his bean bag fabric is sewn by Becky, Atticus’ mom.

Aya and John put the finishing touches on a block building.

Alisa focuses and practices hand-eye coordination as she uses an eyedropper to dye cotton balls.
Alisa hides her eyes for a treasure hiding game during gym time.

Harris keeps the beat during music with Mrs. Hraber.

John takes a break from play dough time to say “cheese”.

Aya is ready to toss the beach ball!

Isaiah proudly shares his notations.

Evran concentrates while following along with a song.
MANY THANKS TO OUR VISITORS!

Our learning was enriched by many visitors this month. Thanks to Conor’s grandmother, Bev Patrick, for bringing her spinning wheel and loom and showing us how they work. We really loved having the chance to try the loom ourselves and are so appreciative to Ms. Patrick for allowing The Children’s School to keep the loom as we learned. Dash’s parents, Holly and Michael Weaver, graciously visited and taught the afternoon friends about Chinese New Year. They brought beautiful decorations that all the friends have enjoyed this month. Mrs. Hraber continued to teach us about music around the world and Miss Debbie, the librarian, shared stories about sheep with us. We celebrated Ava, Maren and Sydnee’s birthdays in the A.M. blue room. Thanks so much to those parents for sharing stories with us and helping with our celebrations.

What’s Next?

After Spring Break, our focus will shift to “How Things Work.” Our activities, stories and explorations will look at simple machines. Our examinations of a spinning wheel and loom this month as part of the “Terrific Textiles” theme will pave the way for smooth connections and transitions into this new, exciting topic. Keep an eye on our daily email/blog so that you can extend our learning from school into your home and family life.