The school year has gone by so quickly! Your children have grown in so many ways and have learned so much. We have had an incredible year of learning and fun.

We added a few new friends to the Green Room. Clark brought a Bullfrog tadpole and Ms. Hancock gave us many other tadpoles. It has been exciting to watch the children feed them and observe their growth. We ordered caterpillars and observed them grow and metamorphosize into their chrysalis. We had two that survived and we later moved them into a netted cage. We are feeding them oranges and sugar water. We will release them outside. The children learned new vocabulary and concepts. We used butterfly life cycle stampers and ink and drew illustrations to make books for our daily work. The Green Room friends had the wonderful opportunity to watch chicken eggs hatch into adorable chicks, thanks to our Kindergarten friends.

The Green Room concluded the year with an author study of one of our favorite authors, Eric Carle. His books and illustrations are simply delightful for children. He says, “I am fascinated by the period in a child’s life when he or she, for the first time, leaves home to go to school. I should like my books to bridge that great divide.” Eric Carle looks for ideas in the world around him. For example, the inspiration for many of Carle’s books about bugs came from walks he took as a child with his father. The Very Hungry Caterpillar goes well with exploring the life cycle of butterflies. Students also enjoyed getting to know Carle’s books in depth by reading several books and making comparisons between illustrations, characters and themes.
The Green Room Friends were very busy...
Here is a closer look at the ERIC CARLE books that we read while studying his unique collage style of illustration.

The Very...
Week One we started with the “Very” books. The Very Hungry Caterpillar teaches counting, metamorphosis, number recognition, nature, nutrition and literacy. The Very Busy Spider is about a spider talking to farm animals. The story tells about how and why a spider spins a web. Various farm animals try to divert a busy little spider from spinning her web, but she persists and produces a thing of beauty and usefulness. The Very Quiet Cricket had each page that showed an insect and a verb that describes its behavior. The Very Lonely Firefly tells a story where the reader empathizes with a lonely firefly who makes errors as he looks for the group where he will “belong.” And finally in The Very Clumsy Click Beetle. “Look at me!” a young beetle exclaims as it flips through the air. But when it lands on its back instead of its feet, it becomes discouraged. The story taught goal setting, tenacity and included many other insects that the beetle encountered to help him learn how to land on his feet.

Counting, Numbers and more Insects
Week Two included Eric Carle’s stories that featured numbers and counting. We read The Grouchy Ladybug that featured a grouchy ladybug who is looking for a fight and challenges everyone it meets regardless of their size and strength. Telling time and learning good manners, feelings, conflict resolution, size, and learning social skills are the theme in this book. The Honeybee and the Robber taught the children important facts about honeybees. In 1,2,3, to the Zoo, counting and adding all the animals together adds up to a perfect 10; each car on the train has one more zoo animal than the one before it, and all arrive happily at the zoo in a dramatic fold out finale! 10 Little Rubber Ducks and Rooster’s Off To See The World presented more opportunities in the text and pictures for learning arithmetic concepts.

Imagination
My Apron concerns a little boy who helps his uncle Adam, a plasterer. Uncle Adam wears an apron, and Aunt Elizabeth sews a smaller version for the boy. He wears the apron and imagines wearing the apron for other occupations. In The Cloud, a little cloud turns itself into a series of wonderful forms and then rejoins the other clouds as they perform their real function: making rain. Today Is Monday teaches the days of the week through singing, and finally The Blue Horse is full of visual creativity inspired by the Expressionist painter Franz Marc when Eric Carle was in high school. These books concluded our author study of Eric Carle.
The Very Busy and Proud Green Room Friends Learned To...

Mrs Bird’s friends

Nera - I was very busy learning how to make books!

Mae - I am very proud when someone is nice to me!

Maggie - I am very proud that I can hula hoop!

Brady - I am very proud that I can write my name!

Felix - I am very proud that I can write books!

Isaac - I was very proud to make a grouchy ladybug!

Xander - I am very proud about playing pirates with Felix and Chase!

Elisabeth - I am busy making drawings for her friends!

Amelie - I was very busy packing and unpacking my backpack.

Chase - I am very proud that I can write numbers and letters!

Mrs. Opferman’s friends

Agatha - I am very proud of remembering to do my daily work!

Woojin - I am very proud of making drawings with Boden!

Savanna - I am very proud of doing my daily work!

Clark - I am very proud that I shared my big tadpole with my school friends!

Briggs - I am very proud that I can tell the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar!

Boden - I am very proud of using my imagination!

Amanda - I am very proud that I can write my name!

Ben - I am very proud of being able to write the number 8!

Rohan - I am very proud of being able to climb on the outside of my house!

Collin - I am very proud that I learned how to make a book!

John - I am very proud of the pictures I draw about Power Rangers, Star Wars and Ninjas!
The Very Busy and Proud Green Room Friends Learned to...

Mrs Solomon’s friends

David - I am very proud of the gigantic block buildings I made, and bounced balls over them!

Dany - I am very proud that I can jump rope now!

Nana - I am very proud that I can zip my purple jacket!

Alexander - I am very proud that I can write a 1, 2, 3, and 4!

Greta - I am very proud that I play with my old school friend Jeremy!

Naveen - I am very proud that I can zip jackets and hit a baseball for the farthest homerun at school!

Emma - I am very proud that I have lots of friends!

Benjamin - I am very proud that I can read books, do hard puzzles, mazes and zip jackets!

Ari - I am very proud that I can write my name!

Nile - I am very proud that I can pedal fast on a tricycle!

Ms. Mangan’s friends

Alice - I am very proud that I can do puzzles quickly!

Emmet - I am proud that I can hop on one foot and jump very high!

Sammy - I am very proud that I can play with my best friends in school!

Maya - I am very proud to make beautiful paintings and drawings.

Henry - is very proud that he can do his daily work. Making a ladybug was his favorite.

Lexi - is very proud to know how to play the 1 2 3 To The Zoo memory game.

Shaylee - I am very proud that I can put on my own coat and zip it.

Sam - I am proud that I learned woodworking and I loved going to the playground!

Hugo - I am very proud that I can write a 1 and a 10!

Ezra - I am proud that I can tell the story about The Very Hungry Caterpillar!
Guests speak to us about book making and how string instruments work!

Kyle Rood                                 Charlee Brodsky                                 Debbie Priore

Mr. Rood, our assistant teacher from The Children’s School Kindergarten kicked off our book and author study about Eric Carle by showing the Green Room friends his diverse book collection. He described the essential parts of making a book, such as the front and back covers and the spine of a book. In his collection were unconventional books shaped like stars and a book in a box. The Green Room friends had never seen the possibilities of how books can be made!

Debbie Priore from the Carnegie Library described to the friends about how Eric Carle created his style of art. She read Carle’s books, *Do You Want To Be My Friend?, The Secret Birthday Message*, and *The Very Busy Spider*. Debbie taught us a new Hokey Pokey with singing and moving like animals!

Charlee Brodsky is a CMU professor in the School of Design. Charlee teaches photography to the university students and focuses on documentary photography. In her presentation to the Green Room friends, she shared her book about her dog, *Max*. The title of her book is: *Bad Dog, Good Dog*. The children enjoyed seeing photographs of Charlee’s dog doing “bad” things, then finally being “good” by just sitting at the end of the book! The Green Room friends learned that pictures can tell a story without using words.

Irvin Kaufmann, Adam Lee, and Laura Motcholov - Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

We took a step looking back to our previous theme of *How Things Work*. Our friends from the Pittsburgh Symphony demonstrated a variety of string instruments. A banjo, guitar, cello, violin and mandolin were compared to one another by showing the size of the strings, how strings vibrate, and how to play soft and loud. Mr. Kaufmann also brought a cow’s horn, one of the first instruments known to man!
Administrative Professionals Day
In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, Mrs. Rosenblum read *This Is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen and *Caps For Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina to Mrs. Bird’s class. Dr. Carver read the book *Draw Me a Star* by Eric Carle to Mrs. Opferman’s and Ms. Mangan’s friends, and Ms. Hancock read *Old Bear* by Jane Hissey to Mrs. Solomon’s class.

May and Summer Birthday Celebrations
Mae, Brady, and Collin celebrated their May birthdays with their families at school. We also celebrated John, Rohan, Agatha, Amanda and Clark’s summer birthdays.

Peter Rabbit and The Giant Turnip Puppet Show
The Green Room had an enjoyable time at the Carnegie Library’s annual puppet show this year, Peter Rabbit and The Giant Turnip by Beatrix Potter. Many thanks to Leslie Grodin (Alexander L.), Jennifer Balog (Mae), Angela Disipio (Maya), Nicolas Hine (Agatha), Tara Pellathy (Rohan) and Marcia Simcox (Henry) for chaperoning.
French Graduation Day
Corinne Guillou (Felix’s mother) taught the Green Room friends French most Friday mornings. After learning numbers, colors, games, songs and words designed to fit our themes in French, Mrs. Guillou awarded diplomas to the Green Room Friends. Thank you to Corinne for enriching our program. We appreciate your time and creativity. Next year’s Kindergarten friends can look forward to having French 2 with Corinne! Merci beaucoup!

More Eric Carle and May Memories
While enjoying reading Eric Carle’s books, the Green Room friends also learned how Eric Carle illustrated his books. The children learned about Carle’s artistic process of painting tissue paper and cutting or tearing them into collages. Stamping, cutting shapes, making marks in paint, using markers, craypas, and crayons were opportunities to express their own artistic style or create their own books. We also played several sequencing stories and Eric Carle story board games.

It is time to say, "Goodbye!"
Our school year has flown by quickly. Your children have grown in many ways and have learned so much. We had a lovely year together! With our best wishes for a wonderful fun filled summer.

Warmly, Jean Bird, Krisy Opferman, Jillian Mangan and Estelle Solomon
Nana and Dany display letters in Eric Carle’s style of collage.

Maggie draws a spider web after reading *The Very Busy Spider*.

The PM class listened and sang *Today Is Monday* while sitting below our Eric Carle painted numbers.

Clark, Elisabeth and David examine our classroom worms.

Isaac carefully examines the Guessing Jar before recording his guess.

Nana, Naveen, and Greta observe our newly hatched butterfly.

Collin builds with a classroom favorite called Wedgits.

Alexander, Naveen, Fleix and Ari take turns looking at the tadpoles.