What a wonderful way to close the school year in the Green Room with a theme on *Light and Color, the life cycle of a butterfly and the wonder of regrowth in the spring time*. We began our theme focusing on Color. Our eyes let us see colors. Circle time discussions and activities included identifying favorite colors, sorting classroom objects by color, experimenting with color mixing, identifying primary and secondary colors and naming the colors of the rainbow. As part of Daily Work, the children first traced an arch shape and then each day added the colors of the rays that make rainbows. During circle, we learned that you can never have a rainbow without rain and the sun. Filling water bottles with colorful beads, sequins and foils, oil, water and jellied food coloring added another experiment and observation of color mixing, buoyancy, sinking and floating. We played color games such as Uno, Color Bingo, and ISpy. Colorful art activities included watercolor painting, marker drawing, and sculpting with Wax Works. Melting crayons, mixing colors and then applying the melted wax on paper with long Q-tips, and tie dyeing T-shirts were experiences for learning about mixing colors. The children were offered color palettes for mixing paints and applying the color to paper. We also experimented with prisms, kaleidoscopes, and binoculars. Mr. Salinetro introduced our friends to electrical circuits. The children learned how to connect wires to make electricity with batteries. After the wires were properly connected, they made lights go on or off, made wheels turn, and made miniature stuffed animals move. We read fiction and nonfiction books comparing day and night and many books about colors. During our exploration of colors, the Peaceful Room became our Black Light Lab. A black light produces ultra Black violet light, which comes after violet on the spectrum. Black light looks like violet and anything you see glowing under a black light is a phosphor(also called fluorescent). The children experimented with glow-in-the-dark Goop that they made and with other fluorescent materials.
Highlights of The Light and Color Theme

Light and Dark

In the day time, the sun lights the earth and we see what is happening around us. At night when the sun goes down, the earth becomes dark.

Casting Shadows
The children learned how light rays come from the sun in straight lines using a flash light. Rays of light cannot bend, go around corners or shine through a solid object. We observed that light from a candle shines out all around it. We looked at shadows of mugs falling in every direction and used a shadow screen with puppets and our moving bodies. On a sunny day, we stood outside with our backs to the sun and also saw our shadows move during a tricycle ride. Because the sun cannot shine through you, we found our bodies will cast a dark shadow. We moved around and watched our shadows do the same things as we did.

Reflection
Mirrors are all about light, which interested our young scientists. The children observed that mirrors work by reflecting light. By demonstrating a bouncing ball, the children were better able to understand that when light hits the surface of a mirror, it reflects just like a bouncing ball. On our Science Center table, we used mirrors with a variety of materials such as blocks, aluminum foil and colored stones to see different reflections. Seeing through a mirrored kaleidoscope was another interesting way to learn about reflection.

Bigger, Smaller, and Shining Through
Lenses can make things look bigger or smaller through a curved piece of plastic or glass. There are lenses in binoculars, a microscope, and a magnifying glass. The children were curious to discover that if you look through the narrow end of a pair of binoculars, things look nearer. If you look through the wide end, things look further away. A microscope makes tiny things big enough to see. A magnifying glass makes small things bigger. Eyeglasses have lenses to help people see better. We experimented with different materials and a flashlight to see which light could go through: a book is opaque, glass is transparent, and a piece of mesh is translucent.
A Colorful World

Animals, plants, and insects use light and color in all kinds of different ways.

Butterflies
As we finished our last few weeks of school, we also had a focus on the metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies. The friends used ink stampers to learn the butterfly life cycle and label each stage. The children observed the caterpillars, watching them eat and grow. All ten of the caterpillars formed their chrysalises. After three weeks of watching and waiting, our Painted Lady Butterflies emerged. We feed them sugar water and colorful red flowers that most attract. We released the butterflies on the playground so they could begin their final stage of the butterfly life cycle - to reproduce. The children had a wonderful time observing and learning new vocabulary words.

Stripes of All Types
Stripes of All Types, written and illustrated by Susan Stockdale, was the book chosen for the Pennsylvania One Book: Every Young Child campaign this year. It was a wonderful book to go along with our Light and Color theme. Debbie Priore presented and read the book to the Green Room friends. She included songs and dances to complement the story. After the story, the children had an opportunity to use striped fabrics and striped papers to create a stripe collage. Mrs. Priore came back a second time to read more books about Light and Color to add more colorful thoughts, puppets, and songs for our theme.

Plant A Seed
The sun is a huge ball of burning gases that gives heat and light to the earth. We learned that without the sun, people, animals or plants would not exist. Last fall, the Green Room friends planted tulip and daffodil bulbs. After the long winter, we were rewarded with beautiful flowers. Recently, the Green Room friends rolled newspapers with a plant pot rolling device to make a planting pot. They then filled their pots with potting soil and planted a sunflower seed. After the seeds sprouted, the children then took their pots and planted them on our playground.
Highlights of The Light and Color Theme

What the children said they can do now and what they learned during their year in the Green Room!!!

Mrs. Bird’s Friends

Ben - I learned about colors.

Jackson - I learned about birds.

Basil - I learned to play T-Ball.

Joya - I learned to write my name.

Charlie - I learned how to write my name.

Sam - I learned how to write my name.

Eric - I learned about creepy sharks.

Ilan - I learned a new game called “Hungry Caterpillar.”

Sally - I learned to play games with blocks.

Julia - I learned to write numbers.

Mrs. Opferman’s Friends

Lorelei - I learned to play with Lite Brite.

Broden - I learned how to make a rainbow.

Rhiannon - I learned how to play T-ball.

Adeline - I learned about birds.

Andres - I can draw better now.

Charlie - I learned to write my name.

Minwoo - I learned to play with Andres.

Simone - I learned to build with Legos.

Natalie - I learned that butterflies start as an egg.

Mrs. Solomon’s Friends

Jane - I learned to build with blocks.

Gwynnie - I learned to write my name.

James - I learned how to write the number 10.

Ruby - I learned to be kind.

Felicity - I learned to write some letters and words.

Elena - I learned to make pictures.

Muriel - I learned to have circle time.

Ms. Mangan’s Friends

Lynn - I learned how to draw a dress on a princess.

Sasha - I learned to make a rainbow.

Julia - I learned to do daily work.

Carlos - I learned to write numbers.

Min Seo - I can ride a bicycle.

Lola - I learned to make a star and rainbow.

Nika - I learned to draw a flower.

Lena - I learned to draw a rainbow and star.

Vivian - I learned to read Nika’s name.

Yasmin - I learned to cut with scissors.

Tayshawn - I learned to climb walls and ride scooters.
Highlights of The Light and Color Theme

Jackson traced a heart on the light table. Milo’s spin art. Ben’s folded paper painted

Adeline enjoyed tracing shapes on the light table. Lorelei and Natalie discovered reflections on mirrors.

Lynn discovered how to use a kaleidoscope.

Broden builds with blocks on a light table.
Highlights of The Light and Color Theme

Sam used a magnifying glass to examine the intricate colors in stones.

Andres and Minwoo discovered that mirrors and colorful pieces make a reflection and symmetrical patterns in kaleidoscopes.

Gwynnie, Muriel and Julia played Color Bingo.

James, Felicity, Sam, and Elena played The Hungry Caterpillar Game.

Lola, Carlos, Lena, and Lynn played the Orchard Game.

Basil used Wax Works to make a sculpture.

Emma traced shapes at the light table.

Charlie was happy with the black and white wings he painted.
Julia, Lola, and Carlos looked at their fluorescent silly putty under black lights and
Simone danced and sang with the friends with scarves swaying to music.

The afternoon friends experimented with connecting electrical circuits.
Lena, Vivian, Lola and Lynn used ink insect stampers and labeled the pictures.
Muriel and Charlie completed a butterfly floor puzzle.

Ben, Muriel, Joya and Sally saw newly newly hatched butterflies.
James created his own caterpillar and and labeled his picture.
Nika and MinSeo played an iPad letter matching program.

Jane, Joya, and Sally planted sunflower seeds for next fall’s Children’s School playground.

Julia, Lola, and Carlos looked at their fluorescent silly putty under black lights and
Simone danced and sang with the friends with scarves swaying to music.
### Highlights of The Light and Color Theme

#### Carnegie Library Puppet Show

We walked to the Carnegie Library for its annual puppet show. The book the librarians choose this year was the African Folktale: *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock,* by Eric A. Kimmel. The children immediately recognized the voice of our visiting school librarian, Debbie Priore, as the voice of Anansi. Everyone enjoyed hearing the story and watching the puppets enact the characters in the story.

#### Many thanks to our chaperones:

Anne Sekula (Jane), Christinna Elash (Elena), Katie Gancy (Julia), Amy Kim (Basil), Kristy Eiter (Sam), Esther Boyiadzis (Simone), Karla Friedman (Andres), Uliana Cowan (Sasha), Deana Fox (Lola), Tammy McCarl (Nika) and Jin MacWhinney (Julia).

#### Butterfly Release

After three weeks of learning and watching the metamorphosis of caterpillars to butterflies, we released the butterflies outside into their natural environment.

#### Celebrating the end of the school year with our tie-dyed t-shirts

Many thanks for you support during the school year; we enjoyed seeing all the children grow. Our best wishes for a safe and fun filled summer! It was our pleasure to be your child’s teacher.

Jean Bird, Jillian Mangan, Krissy Opferman, and Estelle Solomon