It is a new school year, with new friends, and new experiences! The children have been busy becoming familiar with new spaces, new teachers and new transitions. Each morning or afternoon, our friends walk into the Children’s School, find their lockers with their names and then hang up their backpacks and outerwear. Next, the children wash their hands and look for their attendance photograph and name to place on the “I Am Here” attendance chart. During free choice time, the friends can choose to play in the Dramatic Play Center, choose a puzzle, build with blocks in the Green Room, explore what is in the sand table, or choose some other independent activity. At 9:15 or 1:00, Circle Time begins, and the friends make their way with their teacher to their circle area. During circle time, some friends do their jobs. The children take pride in being the calendar helper, the weather helper, and the number of school days helper. These jobs are rotated weekly so every child has the opportunity to lead a part of the circle. Circle Time is a wonderful time to discuss expectations and school rules with the friends as they learn about becoming part of the Children’s School community. Circle Time is followed by Activity Time, where we might play group games, such as our classroom Friend Bingo, Alphabet Adventure, Snail’s Pace or a floor puzzle. During Activity Time we also explore science activities, cooking lessons, woodworking and theme-related projects. Snack Time is next. In the Green Room, we serve snack family style. This approach gives the children the opportunity to pass a bowl of food, while helping themselves and socializing. The friends have also been learning how to pour their own drinks from a pitcher into their glass. When snack is done, the children clean their own spaces. After snack, the children pack their backpacks, put on their coats, and head outside for playground activities. When the bell sounds, the children know it is time to go home or transition into the extended day program. Our friends leave excited for the next school day, when we are ready to begin the whole routine again!
FRIENDSHIP and COMMUNITY

At the Children’s School, our year is separated into theme-related units. During each theme, the teachers change the classroom materials. In September, we planned various activities that made the Friendship and Community theme meaningful to each Green Room friend.

Family Collage
The family collage pages began at home. Our friends worked on this project with their family by selecting photographs to include in their project. The children were proud to share their collages with their peers at circle time. These activities were beginning practice for public speaking! The collages will remain in a binder for everyone to review until the end of the school year.

Community
Our Dramatic Play Center and Block Center were the stages for the children to pretend to be various community workers. The first two weeks of school, the Dramatic Play Center was a home set up for housekeeping, cooking, and taking care of babies. The next week, the Dramatic Play Center became a doctor’s office with pretend doctor’s instruments and dress-up clothes. The following week, the Dramatic Play Center became a post office, with envelopes to sort, letters to be delivered, a cash register, and other postal materials. These experiences helped friends learn how to work together in a community. The focus centered on our whole school, home and neighborhood.

All About Me
Each friend worked on a multi-step personal project. The first step was to write over their traced name. Next, each child identified the first letter in their name and then used golf balls to roll paint on the letter. For the third step, the children looked in a mirror and sketched the shape of their face with a pencil, followed by choosing a paint color to match their skin, after reading the book, THE COLOR OF US. Everyone then had an opportunity to tell what they liked best about school. The projects will be displayed for everyone to see at our Open House on October 14th.
What is a friend? The Rules of Friendship

You may have heard your child talk about “Mango Monkey” and his friends, “Andy the Alligator,” “Shy Squirrel,” “Sal Snake,” and “Cool Confident Cat.” They are puppets we have begun to use at circle time. Mango Monkey helps to teach our young students that we are all friends at school and we can learn to play and work together. The teachers began with talking about and using pictures of how they can be kind to one another. We talked about three Friendship Rules: 1. Use kind words such as: Please, Hello, Thank You. 2. Keep your hands and feet in your own space. 3. Everyone can be a kind friend and play. The teachers asked the children in their circle groups, “What do you think a friend is?” All the children had thoughtful ideas to contribute to the discussion. The Green Room teachers will continue this theme throughout the year, using the different puppets in scenarios to help the children learn how to react in social situations.

Work At The Learning Centers

**THE DISCOVERY AREA** is where we go to explore sand, water, light, and magnets. These tables create opportunities for problem solving, cooperation, and collaboration. The children have also been painting and exploring various art materials at the tables and easel. **THE WOODWORKING CENTER** is part of the **DISCOVERY AREA**. We have introduced the children to working with hammers and nails. Puzzles, sorting by colors or shapes and pegs are favorites in the **MATH CENTER** and on tables. At the **SCIENCE CENTER**, the children have compared a variety of sea shells with magnifying glasses and have used mirrors with paper and pencils for sketching ourselves. We also have attractive plants, a classroom frog named Billy, and a Beta fish named Half Moon for the children to take care of and enjoy. The children have learned about our classroom worms, what they eat, how to handle them gently, and how to prepare their food. The children have enjoyed group games such as *Strawberries In A Basket*, *Alphabet Adventure*, and *Green Room Friends Bingo*!

**MESSAGE FROM ME** gives the children opportunities to learn to use an iPad to take photographs, chose one, and send a recorded message to a family member in their community. The new **MAKE SHOP** is a space for hands on building and tinkering. Here the children can play with ideas, making things, and experiment with tools, techniques and materials. They investigate how things are used and learn new processes and skills. All of these centers are for the children to experience joy, creativity, and curiosity.
CMU Police In Our Community
Officers Campbell and Moran from the CMU Police Department visited our school. After a story book, a discussion about traffic safety and dialing 911 for emergency help, we all had a first hand look at their police vehicle and had the opportunity to sit in it.

Gym With Mrs. Wendolowski
The nice weather has allowed us to have our gym classes outside. The first week the children learned to play the games Red Light Green Light and What Time Is It Mr. Fox? The second week of school we listened to directions by playing Hoppin Hoops, had a Bug Hunt, and played Crazy Cones. The last week in September the children were introduced to a variety of parachute games. Take a look at our website for more details!

Music & Movement With Lauren Hraber (pronounced like “Harbor”)
This month’s music and movement concentration is learning how to keep a beat. The children were introduced to Pete the Metronome, a musical tool, and learned how to tap to the beat using a drum, marching and jumping. We also learned new songs titled- WILL YOU BE A FRIEND OF MINE, and I AM SPECIAL, and WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER. We look forward to Mrs. Hraber’s bi-monthly musical experiences.
The Carnegie Library
The children were smiling and laughing when Debbie Priore from the Carnegie Library helped to support our theme by visiting the Green Room with fun songs emphasizing following directions, including fingerplays, and sharing stories about communities, animals, and friendship. The books Miss Debbie read were; “*Bear’s New Friend*” by Karma Wilson, “*Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley*” by Aaron Babey, and “*The Crocodile That Didn’t Like Water*” by Gemma Merino. The theme of the day was that it is good to be different, but be good friends! Miss Debbie also led in singing and dancing the *Bear Hokey Pokey* and a *Hello Song* singing the word *hello* in several languages! Miss Debbie will join us monthly to help support our themes.

Special Thanks To
Heidi Hershock (Owen AM), Melissa McFadden (Betsy PM) and Janica Smith (Kendal PM) for reading stories to the Green Room friends, participating in and planning our activities, and enjoying birthday snacks.

Discover the world through play! Play is one of the best ways for children to learn literacy and language skills. Playing helps children use new words, tell stories, and expand their imaginations.
Some of the morning friends played Classmate Bingo!

Evelyn, Malena, and Ksenia rolled golf balls in glitter paint on their first initial for their All About Me.

The afternoon friends enjoyed each other playing circle games together.

Atticus, Parker, and Deborah learned one to one correspondence playing Snail’s.

Tomer used markers to decorate his face and clothes on his traced body.

Sean practiced writing his name by tracing the letters and counting how many letters are in his name.

Kendal practiced her balancing skills to the music, Across The Bridge.
Annie painted her eyes, nose and mouth for her *ALL ABOUT ME* poster.

Mrs. Myers worked with friends tracing and cutting circles for learning about what a traffic light means.

Marina and Javi worked together to complete puzzles.

Tiger hammered wood shapes with tacks.

Grace shared her family collage with her circle friends.

Malena and Deborah played *Endless Alphabet*, a letter and word matching game on the iPads.

Evan learned about his internal organs while visiting the Doctor’s office in the Dramatic Play Center.

Javi used a map of Pittsburgh to play with boats on the rivers along with cars, trucks, and buildings.

Evan and Grace learned how to use pliers to remove golf tees from styrofoam boards.

In the Make Shop, these friends learned how to make gears work together.
Miss Vizzini, our student teacher, read a story at circle time.

Atticus and Eugene built with bricks and animals.

Ava painted a person on the easel.

Cash recorded his favorite colors.

Max, Isaac, and Ben R. drilled holes!

Parker used a magnifying glass to closely examine a starfish.

Owen, Deborah and Leeza worked in the post office.

Betsy explored the loose parts section of the playground.

On the playground, these friends used loose parts to build with!

Building a neighborhood with streets was the job of these city planners!

Isaac’s weekly job was to feed our classroom pets and Jovie’s job was watering the room’s plants.

The “on call” Green Room Children’s Hospital Staff!