Friendship and Community
Routines in our School

It is a new school year, with new friends and new experiences! In the Green Room, the children have been busy becoming familiar with new spaces, new teachers, new routines and new transitions.

John finds his picture and matches it to his name on the Attendance Chart.

Isaiah checks his backpack before hanging it in his cubby at the start of school.

Evren washes his hands every day before he starts his day at school.

Maren built a rainbow bridge with the Imagination Playground Blocks.
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.” There 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 at school. We talked about three Friendship Rules; 1. Use kind words such as: Please, Hello, and Thank You at school. 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 thread throughout the year, using the different puppets in scenarios to help the children learn how to react in social situations.

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 and cooking. The next two weeks, the Dramatic Play Center became a doctor’s office with pretend doctor’s instruments and dress up clothes. These experiences helped friends learn how to work together in a community. The focus centered on our whole school, home and neighborhood.
**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 easel and tables. **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 favorite in the classroom **MATH CENTER** and on tables. At the classroom **SCIENCE CENTER**, the children have used magnifying glasses to compare a variety of sea shells and rocks with and without water. They have used mirrors with paper and pencils for sketching themselves. The children have enjoyed learning group games such as **Strawberries in a Basket, Green Room Friends Bingo, Orchard** and **Snail's Pace**. The **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.

**The Faces of the Green Room**

One of the ways that we learn about each other is by exploring our faces and thinking about what all the different parts look like. We read **All About Faces**, by La Zoo, and explored our faces with mirrors. Each friend worked on a multi-step personal project. The first step was for each child to identify the first letter of their name and then use golf balls to roll paint colors on their letter. For the second 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**, by Karen Katz. The next day, when the skin paint was dry, we picked out the colors for our hair, our eyebrows and eyelashes, our eyes, and our lips. It was hard to paint the details and to keep the eye colors from mixing together. Finally our portraits were done! Everyone then had an opportunity to tell what they liked best about school. Each step of the process is shown in the photographs below. The project will be displayed for everyone to see at our **OPEN HOUSE** on October 5th.
Gym With Mrs. Wendolowski

The nice weather has allowed us to have our gym class outside on the grassy field. The first week the children learned to play listening games Red Light Green Light, Duck, Duck Goose and What Time Is It Mr. Fox? We also used some gym time to go for a nature walk and collect items for a nature collage. Take a look at our website for more details!

Music & Movement

Mrs. Lauren Hraber (pronounced like “Harbor”) comes to the Children’s School every other Thursday. 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 they learned how to tap to the beat by clapping, beating a drum, marching and jumping. We also participated in a parachute game called, Friends, Friends 1 2 3. The new songs the children enjoyed learning are titled - WILL YOU BE A FRIEND OF MINE, I AM SPECIAL, and WE CAN PLAY TOGETHER. We look forward to Mrs. Hraber’s musical experiences at school.
The Carnegie Library

The children were smiling and laughing when Debbie Priore from the Carnegie Library Outreach Program helped support our theme by visiting the Green Room with fun songs emphasizing following directions, including finger plays, and sharing stories about communities and friendship. Ms. Debbie will join us monthly to help support our themes.

CMU Police Officers

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.

Special Thanks To

Ayca Akin (Evren AM) for reading a story to Mrs. Opferman's class to celebrate Evren's birthday and Alexandra and Daniel Snediker (Elijah AM) for reading also to Mrs. Opferman's class to celebrate his birthday.
The Discovery Area

Ava and Sydnee enjoyed fingerpainting.

Harris used a funnel in the sandbox.

Jack built with magnetic shapes at the light table.

Dean, Aubri, Josie and Max hammered golf tees into styrofoam.

Artist Jack painted at the easel.

Adler played in the water table.

John and Elijah made goop.

Josh, Adrian, Benny and Adler experimented with ramps and cars in the sandbox.
Blocks

Henry built with Kapla Blocks.

Caleb used his construction skills to build a multi level structure.

Josie and Max enjoyed building with Legos.

Conor used blocks to build a car garage.

Math

Addison counted with Unifix Cubes.

We sorted Counting Bears by color and size.

The friends counted 10 beads and strung them on a pipe cleaner to make a bracelet.

Maya put trees together in numerical order and placed pegs to represent oranges in each tree.
The Science Center

Aubrey used mirrors to see her reflection and then draw a self-portrait.

Max sprayed water on rocks and shells to see how they changed.

Colby and Evren collected acorns, leaves, sticks and rocks on a nature walk in Schenley Park.

Sydnee, Elijah and Jack examined herbs and smelled their aroma from our garden.

Dean discovered how a prism and mirror can change a design.

Dean fed our pet fish, Half Moon, while Eli watched.
Dramatic Play

Benny delivered blocks by truck and put them together to make a building.

Avi and Eli used community helpers to build their city with magnetic blocks.

John pretended to cross a bridge on a balance beam.

The Doctor’s Office was popular for Alisa, Josh and Sydnee to practice their medical skills.

Aubrey and Avi imagined living in the doll house.

The Community Rug was a favorite for using ideas for buildings, vehicles, and people figurines.
The Make Shop

The friends used a hammer to decorate foam shapes with colorful tacks.

We learned hammering skills to hammer nails into a tree trunk.

We put together nuts and bolts, and then picked them up with a magnet.

Art and Writing

Henry and Josh used paper glue and markers to design their collage.

Elijah cut lines to make a “car wash.”

These friends are working on their Family Graph.

We traced and cut circles to make traffic lights.
Games We Played

- Strawberries in a Basket
- The Orchard Game
- Green Room Friends Bingo
- Harris and Adrian played Endless Alphabet on iPads.
- The Hungry, Hungry Squirrel Game
- Bowling In The Red Room
The Playground