Dear Families,

The past six weeks have been filled with many enjoyable experiences for the friends in the Green Room. We began our second theme, RECYCLING AND COMMUNITY HELPERS. We first discussed the various community helpers such as the police, firefighters, hospital workers, gardeners, and sanitation workers, and their jobs in our community. In circle time we discussed how to improve our community, environment, and THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL by recycling, reusing, and reducing. We talked about sorting recyclables by material, whether paper, plastic, metal, or glass, and encouraged the children to become good recyclers. We also discussed reducing the amount of garbage by composting our waste and used our own compost jar to involve the children directly. We put our leftover snacks into the jar and then transferred the contents to our new outdoor compost mixer.

The children are continuing to explore and take responsibility for the many learning centers throughout the classroom. In the BOOK CENTER, we had many fiction and non-fiction books on community helpers and recycling such as, Emergency! by Gail Gibbons, Where Does All The Garbage Go? by Melvin Berger, The Earth Book by Todd Parr, Stuff! Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by Steven Droll, Recycle Everyday! by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace, and Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth by Mary McKenna Siddals.

In the DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER, we created a fire station equipped with fire hoses, jackets, helmets, gloves, fire extinguishers, and oxygen tanks. The friends got to pretend to drive to fires, put them out with hoses and fire extinguishers, and to save other friends from fires. We also created “THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL HOSPITAL,” in which the friends got to pretend to be doctors and nurses and took care of the “patients.” We had many “sick” baby dolls that needed serious medical attention and lots of bandages. Lastly we changed our dramatic play center into “THE CHILDREN’S SCHOOL LANDFILL,” filling it with lots and lots of litter that was collected by a recycling truck, then sorted into boxes of paper, plastic, metal, or glass.
We completed many projects for our recycling theme. We made mobiles using a collection of old CD’s and glued tissue paper and painted on them. In woodworking, we hammered holes into bottle caps and then strung the caps on a wire to make a tambourine. The friends also drilled holes into old puzzle pieces to make necklaces. We painted picket fences to place around our garden outside. Another fun project was to make puzzle sculptures from old puzzle pieces, and we also reused materials to create beautiful collage sculptures. We used paper towel holders to make our own kazoo, and made pencil holders from cat food cans, old socks that had lost their mates, and caps from dried out markers.

The LETTER PEOPLE that were introduced included Mr. F with the “Funny Feet.” For cooking, we made Mr. F’s favorite snack—fruit salad. Mr. H with the “Happy Horrible Hair” was the next Letter Person. We made “crazy, hip, hip, happy hats” using tissue paper, and played the game, Hssss. Our next Letter Person was Mr. N with the “Noisy Nose.” Introduced next was Mr. B with the “Beautiful Buttons.” We glued buttons to make button collage necklaces and played the game, Barnyard Boogie. Our last letter was Mr. P with the “Pointy Patches.” We played the games Pet Hunt and Positions, painted with Payons(crayons that you paint with), created pencil holders, and in cooking, made pretzels from bread dough.

Becky Turner of Turner’s Dairy Farm came to visit to tell us what it is like living on a dairy farm. She discussed what cows eat and talked about processing the milk. She also provided us with a vanilla milk shake as a special treat. It was yummy!

Another special visitor we had was Mrs Handron, from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (her son Ryan is in our Kindergarten). She brought her Dome, a portable inflatable planetarium that allowed us to sit inside and experience the night sky and discover the stars and planets.

The “Cans Across the Cut,” which was CMU’s annual food drive that benefited the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, was a huge success. The Children’s School came in third on campus with 321 food and toiletry items. We had fun walking over to the campus cut to place the items in a long line.

The Green Room Team

Mrs. Bird, Miss Mangan, Mrs. McGillen, Mrs. Opferman, and Mrs. Solomon
Kabir, Delia, Grace, Sophia, Trey, Mack, and Oscar prepare the soil for planting.

Elif and Trey paint the fences for our garden boxes.

Harly and Elif plant flower and garlic bulbs.

William turns the wheel of our outdoor compost bin.

Kabir collects recyclable items for the recycle truck.

Anna, Sydney, and Delia prepare food to help the birds and squirrels for the winter.

Eddie, Michael, Gray, and Kabir are ready to fight a fire.

Sydney gets ready for surgery.

Harrison, Elif, Cora, and Julia take care of Mrs. McGillen.

Bryce, Anna, Mark, and Oscar play the game Let’s Recycle with Mrs. Solomon.
Sydney Sw., Harley, and Delia gather items to create recycled sculptures.

Elif and Cora decorate old CD’s.

Roland, Sebastian, and Sang Tae decorate a box to be used as a surprise box during circle time.

Maya, Delia, and Mark proudly show their recycle collage sculptures.

Joby and Caroline have success putting together the farm puzzle.

Gray, Eddie, Sophia, and Mack enjoy playing with the farm Legos on the large Lego table.

Oscar, Cora, and Ryan play with our new manipulatives—No Ends while Peter explores the Light Table.
Mack and Ian work on letter F in their letter journals.

William, Sebastian, and Madeleine wait for their turn while Jake scoops out the pumpkin to carve.

William and Elias chop up Mr. F’s favorite food – fruit salad for the day’s snack.

Simon shakes and shakes the cream to make butter for snack.

Harly, Sydney, and Charlotte draws objects that begin with B.

Harrison, Sydney, and Julia play with the dolls in the dramatic play center.

Oscar, Mark, and Bryce enjoy making shapes using the geoboards.

Jonas and Mrs. Bird work together in his Letter Journal.

Madeleine creates her own birds playing with the bird puzzle.
CANS ACROSS THE CUT
Wednesday, November 10th
WHY DO WE PLAY AT THE WATER TABLE?

Not only do the children have fun at the water table but it also gives them a chance to explore math and science concepts, develop new language skills, improve fine motor function, and engage in social interactions. The use of the water table covers all of the domains of The Children’s School’s developmental objectives. The water table helps build self-esteem and independence; the children interact and cooperate with each other; communicate with each other; explore and discover through measuring, comparing, sorting; develop fine motor skills when pouring; and using creativity while pretending. We add food coloring or soap bubbles into the water to enhance the play. We also add objects in the water table that pertain to the theme we are studying such as plastic animals, boats, mittens to wash, and recyclable containers. We change our water table objects every week so ask your child about playing at the water table.

TRY RECYCLING AT HOME!

During our Recycling Theme, the children became aware of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Try using old materials such as packing peanuts and let your children create interesting art objects. Have your children collect milk caps and other lids. Let them create designs by lacing these on old shoe strings. Another activity is to glue pop lids to form patterns (different colors and shapes) on index cards. Have separate lids and let your children try to form the same patterns on their own cards. Begin your own compost pile or bin. The children can watch fruits, paper, grass, etc. decompose and turn into fertilizer over time. Let your children help with recycling at home. Have them collect and sort metal, paper, plastic, and glass items into the proper bins. Let’s all make our community a happier, healthier, place to live.