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

During the Outer Space unit, the friends have learned so much about our solar system. The first two weeks of our unit we used to learn about what makes up our solar system. We focused on a planet a day and even spent a day focussing on the sun and moon. During activity time, we decorated the sun, the moon and each planet (we included Pluto because many children had questions about it). We then hung our solar system pieces above our heads in our classroom so we could feel like we were in Outer Space. We decorated and designed each piece differently. We golf ball painted Mercury. We used puffy paint to decorate Venus. We used blue and green collage pieces to make the Earth. For Mars, we used red craypas to color the red planet. Jupiter was painted with vehicles (and we added a great red spot with red paint.) Saturn was painted with glitter and glue. For Uranus we wrapped it with blue string. Neptune was spray painted with blue water colors. Pluto, a dwarf planet, was decorated by using silver daubers. It was fun to use sponges to cover our HUGE sun and we dipped straws in silver paint then stamped them on the moon (craters!).

During our third week, we focused on space travel and space equipment. We learned what astronauts do, and how rovers drive on the moon and we watched videos of rocket lift offs!
Out of this World Activities

Take a look at some photographs and brief descriptions of our favorite activities that reinforced our understanding of the planets, stars, solar system and space travel!

**Locker Tags**
The friends looked at posters of our solar system and noticed how all the planets differed in size and color. They each choose a planet to draw and then practiced writing the name of the planet. Earth, Mars and Jupiter were the most popular!

**Volcano Eruptions**
Venus is a planet with volcanoes. Friends were excited to do the volcano experiment mixing baking soda and vinegar to see an eruption! We also added some red food coloring to make it seem like lava.

**Constellations**
As we learned about our solar system, friends took an interest in stars. We learned that a grouping of stars that forms a recognizable pattern is called a constellation. We used black paper and chalk to make white dots (stars) and then connected them to make a picture. We even named our constellations.
**Glitter Galaxies**
What fun to make our very own galaxies! The friends first used glue bottles and made a design on their dark paper. Then they chose a variety of different glitter colors and poured it over the glue. When they were finished, they picked up and shook their paper to get any extra glitter off to reveal their beautiful glitter galaxy.

**Rocket Ship**
Friends worked together to cover a large cardboard shape of a rocket ship with aluminum foil. We used glue to cover the entire rocket ship, then we meticulously covered each inch with a shiny piece of foil. We used this rocket ship as the center piece of our bulletin board. Each friend added an astronaut to the board to represent themselves and they were tethered to the ship!

**Create your own Planet**
The friends used salad spinners and glitter paint to make a funky, colorful planet. Friends chose colors of paint to add to their paper and when ready they would spin, spin, spin. It was so exciting to open the lid and reveal to everyone how the paint had spread and mixed. The friends named their planet as well.
Rocket Blast Off
Friends first cut and then decorated their paper rockets. Then they decided if they wanted to blast off to the moon or to Earth. Then, their rocket was attached to a balloon and the balloon was attached to a straw on a string. The friends then began the count down: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 BLAST OFF!! And the balloon propelled the paper rockets up the string to the moon or to Earth!

Dramatic Play Center Fun
Look at how busy our astronauts have been in the Green Room Space Station. We’ve been calling base, counting down for lift off, examining models of the solar system and so much more!
Welcomed Guests

Annie’s mom joined the friends to help celebrate Annie’s birthday.

Marina’s mom and sister came in to share stories of Marina’s grandfather who worked on some of the earliest computers used for space travel!

Miss Debbie, children’s librarian from the Carnegie Library, shared Outer Space stories!

Atticus’ mom shared a favorite story with his circle time friends to celebrate his birthday.

Evelyn’s parents helped to make Evelyn’s birthday special by sharing a book at circle.

Mrs. Hraber continues to engage the friends with musical lessons that go along with our theme!
This month in the make shop, friends have been using tools to take apart small electronics to see what’s inside. They have explored the insides of a CD player, DVD player and cameras. The friends have had some time practicing with the drills and screw drivers at the woodworking center. Tomer, Ben, Parker and Ava sure look like they are having a good time!

We discussed the importance of being grateful for what we have and our responsibility of giving to those who don’t have all that they need. Then we took a field trip to the center of the campus to add donated canned goods to the growing collection on the cut. The food collected was donated to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.