Dear Parents,

Our first week back from winter break was our transitional week. We enjoyed hearing stories about winter and snowy days. We then created snowmen small and large, as well as snow flakes (even in cooking), and we dripped colored water over ice castles.

Our first book for the theme Art and Artists was called “Fancy Nancy” by Jane O’Connor. It is a story about a young girl who feels that more is better! She had a very plain bedroom but then she decided that it needed to be more fancy! The book is how Nancy transforms her bedroom, parents and little sister into being very fancy for one enchanted evening. We enjoyed that humorous and warm story.

The second story was called “Art and Max” by David Wiesner, who, by the way, is an artist. Arthur, who is called Art, knows how to paint and wants to share his wisdom with his friend Max. The book is both about creating art and a eye opening adventure.

The third book was “Peter’s Picture” by Valeri Gorbachev. It’s a story that uses animals as the characters with one in particular that is a bear named Peter. Peter draws a picture and is very proud of his painting. He shows it to several special people in his life, but Peter’s father knew exactly what to do with his picture. He made a frame for the painting and hung it on the wall!

When reading Dr. Carver’s Director’s Corner on communicating, the comments she made are exactly what the teachers implement into the extended morning program. The teachers use words to describe works of art, and we discuss causes and possible effects when we experiment with different art techniques. The teachers make the books come alive for the children! The children did similar forms of painting such as using daubers for making dots like in Art and Max, dressing-up creatively in bright colors and being fancy from Fancy Nancy, and painting flowers like in Peter’s Painting. All of these experiences develop each child’s strengths in communicating via artwork.

We want to thank Ms. Branquet (Felix Guillou’s mom) for coming to read Fancy Nancy in French and doing an activity that was a lot of fun. The extended program was fortunate to have two of Carnegie Mellon’s catering chiefs come for a visit to show us how another art form is used by carving beautiful swans, mice and designs out of fruit and vegetables. A big thanks to Chef Aldo and Chef Sean. Then we were given the opportunity to paint with an artist Mr. Robert M. Robinson who set-up the red room so the children could experience creating a design. Then Mr. Robinson pulled all of the children’s artwork together with his wonderful finishing touches!

Mrs. Tomer, Mrs. Opferman, Mrs. Bird, Ms. McMichael and Miss Furman