The **Extended Morning Program** has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Pre-School theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by experiences in our make shop, with wood working, and cooking activities in the kitchen. We also enjoy daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday’s email, and a list of available activities each day. The newsletter for each theme recaps the related activities through text and photographs, with captions highlighting the developmental emphasis.

**January Pre-School Theme:**
**Outer Space**

A picture is worth a thousand words. These photos tell the story of our Outer Space theme at the Children’s School and express just how much we learn from our explorations!

**Extended Morning Teachers:** Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Myers, and Mrs. Opferman
Atticus can access materials independently at the open Art and Writing Center shelves.

Ellen, Mio and Wilder laugh together on the playground.

The excitement builds as Archie prepares his rocket for a launch to the moon.

Rowan and Evie work with their fingers to carefully fit the Light Bright pegs into the holes.

Arianna uses fine motor control to weave paper into a moon shape.

Oliver plays a gross motor game in which he has to move from planet to planet in different ways.

Raj uses the loose parts to pretend a story about space travel.

Lettie records her observations in the Space Station.

Music Time often includes learning theme content through story-songs.
Ellen and Lucy look at photographs as they make paper mache models of the planets.

Lucy and Ian learn about their “Place In Space” as they make their home - on the earth - in outer space.

Friends use a balloon to power a paper rocket up to the Moon.

Friends study a map of Pittsburgh to find out where their home is in relation to the school.

Sloan, Lettie and Evie play in an outdoor shelter they have created.

The children want to listen again and again to a story/song book about Neil Armstrong’s life story from babyhood to being the first astronaut to step on the moon.

Jamie Ann tries to see how tall she can make her block stack.

Ian, Arianna, Ellen, Emmy, James and Cheryl work together to complete a large planet puzzle.

Atticus rolls the dice to see how many spaces to move his astronaut on the rocket.
While the children are too young yet to use the griddle, Branden and Lily can observe how the pancake batter changes as it is heated.

Wilder can see that the cookie cutter tool has made the perfect shape of a rocket.

Children see the effects of Florescent Paints in the outer-space-darkness of the Make Shop lit only by black lights.

Kieran uses loose parts to create his own scene to enact an outer space story with props.

Emmy uses recycled materials to create parts for a Space Shuttle.

Claes and Ruth have an adventure inside the Space Shuttle created by many friends.

There are many opportunities to exercise indoors when the temperature is too cold to go outdoors.

Cecilia takes a taste of the rocket ship pancakes she helped to make in the Kitchen.

James remembers to wear safety glasses whenever he is using a tool, even if it is to do some quick hammering to make a small orbiting top!