The story *Life In The Air* by Maria Rius and J.M. Parramon follows a baby bird from hatching out of its egg, to learning how to fly, to discovering the world from up in the air. The children learned games such as Orchard, Early Birds and the Feed the Birds game. In Feed The Birds, each child rolls a die and uses a clothespin “bird” to pick up that many worms (pipe cleaner pieces) to take to their nest for the baby birds. They discovered how a paper shredder works, and then used the shredded paper to make bird nests. We also experimented with dropping different items from high up to see how they fell to the ground. The children learned that gravity causes things to fall down and that lighter things, like feathers, sometimes get caught in the air and float down slower than heavy, solid things, such as coins.

The cooks made homemade suet to freeze and then put into suet baskets to hang on our playground and outside the windows to feed the birds.
Without You by Sarah Weeks is a heartfelt story-song about the relationships in an Emperor Penguin family. The father penguin carefully balances the egg on his feet and cares for it during the long, dark two months of Antarctic winter, while the mother goes out to sea to feed. After the egg hatches, the mother returns and uses her voice to find her family. She cares for the chick while the father goes to feed.

The animals of the Arctic and Antarctic circles spend theirs lives surviving subfreezing air temperatures and frigid water. Their secret is blubber, a thick layer of body fat that comprises up to 50% of some marine mammals. To demonstrate this fact, the children did the blubber glove experiment by testing the feel of freezing cold water directly on their hands, and then again with their hand in a plastic bag surrounded by Crisco. The friends got to see on a small scale what it’s like to take a dip in cold water without turning into a popsicle. Another experiment showed how the oil on bird feathers causes water to slide right off of them.

We played with small penguin figures on blocks of ice, used the scooters to practice “belly sliding” as penguins do when they get too tired to walk any more, and pretended to be penguins fishing in the ocean. The friends also played a letter recognition and writing skill game called "Feed the Penguin".
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon, is about a baby bat and her mother who get separated during an owl attack. The baby bat lands in a bird's nest and is taken in by the mother bird, but only if she changes her bat ways. She finds her bat mother later in the story and is reunited with her bat family, but she remains in contact with her bird family. "Stellaluna" activities included the following: making bat wings to wear; playing a sorting and comparing bird wings and bat wings game; making paper mache nests; building birds out of folded and stuffed coffee filters and feathers; counting bats: and making fruit kabobs in the kitchen. The children enjoyed learning the dance to the Birdie Tweet Tweet song by Laurie Berkner.

Ben makes a Bird Nest out of shredded paper, string, ribbon and glue.

Milo and Ilan examine the different kinds of fruit that bats and birds might eat. The fruit was made into Fruit Kabobs for everyone to taste.

Sahil plays the Bird-Bat Comparison Game.
The story *Chickens Aren’t The Only Ones* by Ruth Heller, begins with wonderful illustrations and descriptions of the different kinds of eggs that birds lay. It then outlines the other types of animals that lay eggs: reptiles, amphibians, fish, spiders, snails and insects. There are only two exceptions of mammals that lay eggs - the Spiny Anteater and the Duckbill Platypus, whom both live in Australia! Everyone who lays an egg is OVIPAROUS. The week’s activities included: racing with an egg on a spoon; practicing cutting egg shapes; forming clay eggs; decorating bird houses; and water color painting on huge dinosaur eggs.

Several activities focused on math skills. While playing the Yarn Measuring Game, each child chose a plastic egg, opened it, and laid the piece of yarn out straight on the table. Then they lined up small unit blocks next to the yarn and counted how many blocks long the string was. The children practiced counting, sequencing and number identification in the Small to Big Egg game, the Name That Number game, and the Shaky Egg Hide and Seek game.

All of the kitchen cooks colored hard-boiled eggs this week.
Saatwick lines up blocks against a string to see how many blocks long it is.

Maeve carefully balances an egg on a spoon as she walks.

Saatwick lines up blocks against a string to see how many blocks long it is.

Maeve carefully balances an egg on a spoon as she walks.

Sam and Jane color hard-boiled eggs.

Nola uses water color paints to decorate a huge dinosaur egg.

Daniel, Phoebe, Ruby and Roxy paint dinosaur eggs.

Jacobo plays with penguins on ice.
**BIRDSONG** is written by Audrey Wood, and illustrated by Robert Florczak. Each page of this dawn to dusk story details a different environment and a different bird with a distinct call or song.

The activities that supported the book included: playing the Bird Match Game and Bird Sound Bingo; using our whole bodies to play Crows and Cranes and Bird Catcher; folding paper into airplanes; using wood shims, c-clamps, drills, screwdrivers, nuts and bolts to build airplanes or birds; and rolling, cutting and baking bird shaped biscuits.

Ilan opens the salt so he can measure it for the Bird Biscuit recipe.

Natalie and Lorelei listen to the bird sounds to make a match in Bird Sound Bingo.

Julia folds paper to make a paper airplane.

Sahil takes his turn in the Bird Match Game.

**We learned so much about Birds in Extended Morning this Month!** We will continue to feed and observe the birds around the school throughout the spring.

_The Extended Morning Team: Mrs. Tomer, Mrs. Opferman, Ms. McMichael, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Bird_