In our extended program, we have focused on “building” this month. We have enjoyed taking a closer look at the “buildings” that animals make into their homes. This all-school unit has been lots of fun to explore!

Our first book in this unit was a delightful tale entitled, “The Great Fuzz Frenzy” by Janet Stevens. In this story, burrowing prairie dogs discover a tennis ball. They tear apart the fuzz and enjoy wild adventures because of their new discovery. We enjoyed activities such as: tunneling through obstacles, playing in dirt, creating tennis ball faces, and sewing button eyes onto sock puppets. We also enjoyed prairie dog cookies with “fuzz”!

Next on our literary menu, we read a non-fictional book, “The Honey Bee’s Hive”. This factual book informed us about the lives of honeybees. Did you know that these insects have five eyes? Playing with plastic insects, moving to “The flight of the bumblebee”, making wings, and exploring a real honeycomb were some of the week’s activities.

“Inside Mouse Outside Mouse” was a simple story comparing the habits of two mice. Prepositions were the focus of this tale. Some of the activities that were offered were: playing with a doll house, observing Mr. Salinetro’s mouse attempt a maze, cooking cheesy bread, creating still life drawings, producing maps, and practicing woodworking.

Beavers were the focus of the next text, “Beaver’s Lodge”. Poor beaver falls and gets hurt. His beloved friends nurse him back to health and take liberty to finish and decorate his new home. These friends are amused at their haphazard mistake: forgetting to make a door. Gracious beaver laughs and decides to put his incisors to good use by gnawing an opening into his new home and all is well between the friends. The activities that followed were painting with our feet, creating a beaver lodge, building with planks, as well as with the imagination playground.

We are looking forward to our next unit: Light and Color!

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Flynn, Miss Furman, Mrs. Opferman,
Ms. McMichael, and Mr. Salinetro
We have been building in so many ways. From blocks to wood, to animal homes, it has been a month of making creations and learning about all of the world’s natural buildings!