In our extended program this month, we have focused on “The Ocean”. We have explored everything from tides to boats and enjoyed learning about the many different types of animals in the ocean. It was an amazing theme to end the year!

We dove into the unit with a book entitled, “Swimmy” by Leo Lionni. Swimmy is a small, fast-swimming fish who gets away when all of the other fish in his school are eaten by a tuna. Swimmy goes on to teach others how to swim together as a group to look as if they are one huge fish, successfully scaring the tuna away. We enjoyed activities such as: playing ‘Go Fish’, watching videos of real fish swimming as a group and creating a giant stuffed fish. We also sponge painted an underwater scene for our ocean mural.

Our next book, “Big Al” written by Andrew Clements, features Big Al who is the friendliest and scariest-looking fish in the sea. As he unsuccessfully tries to befriend the smaller fish, they get caught in a net and Big Al frees them and they live together as friends. The friends in our school spent their time painting a ‘Big Al’ for our mural, building boats in the woodworking area and decorating brown bags to make puffer fish.

“The Snail and the Whale” by Julia Donaldson inspired our activities as we cruised into our third week. The story highlights the unlikely friendship between a humpback whale and a snail. The beached whale in the book sparked many questions, so one activity during the week was to check out some videos of tides and beached whales and people who help get them back into the ocean. We also painted a whale, played the game “Snail’s Pace Race” and stretched strings to see the actual lengths of different whales.

Our last ocean focus book was “Clumsy Crab” by Ruth Galloway. Nipper the crab does not like his huge, clumsy claws. He trips over them and breaks things with them. Then one day, his friend Tickly Octopus gets tangled in some seaweed. Nipper is able to snip the seaweed into small pieces with his claws and free his friend. Some activities that followed were creating macaroni crabs, running a pincher relay-race and blowing bubbles.

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Flynn, Miss Furman, Mrs. Opferman,
We have had so much fun this year teaching, laughing, singing and learning with the extended friends! We hope everyone has a safe and fun summer!