Dear Families:

We spent our first weeks getting to know our school and how we communicate. Our featured books were *May I Bring a Friend*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Katy-No-Pocket*, *Blueberries for Sal*, and *Peter’s Chair*. We have loved getting to know our teachers and friends. As we get used to our routine, school is becoming a more exciting place to learn new things and to safely explore our surroundings. We are looking forward to learning more in the coming theme on Recycling/Communication!

Our first book of the month, *May I Bring a Friend* by Beatrice DeRegniers, was a great introduction to our program. This story depicts a young man receiving an invitation to a tea party of the king and queen. He asks if he can bring some of his animal friends. Some highlights of the week were creating some animal artwork, moving our bodies in animal yoga and enjoying a tea party of our own. We were delighted to invite our Kindergarten neighbors!

*Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes was next on our list of texts. This delightful tale tells of a mouse that loves her name until she receives criticism. She discovers that her teacher also has a long name and gains confidence that her name truly is beautiful. We worked hard all week to create our own pasta art, tissue paper flowers and cooked Chrysanthemum’s favorite meal – macaroni and cheese.

Katy is a pocket-less kangaroo in *Katy-No-Pocket* by Emmy Payne. She is sad that she can’t carry her young until she makes a friend in the city. He offers her his tool apron, complete with pockets. She then has room enough for her little joey, as well as other animals! We enjoyed kangaroo hopscotch, mom/baby puzzles, woodworking and lacing pockets. You may have been able to enjoy the pita pockets that were cooked in the kitchen!

Your children aren’t necessarily feeling blue, but they have certainly enjoyed our time together reading the book about picking a blue fruit entitled *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey. A young child gets mixed up with a young bear cub in the mountains when picking blueberries with his mother. Both mothers are concerned for their young, who end up happily eating blueberries. We enjoyed creating blueberry fingerprints, using the shadow screen, and playing with a marble run. In the kitchen we made delicious blueberry pudding treats. We really enjoyed cooperating together to create art, to cook delicious food and to communicate with one another!

Our I’m In School/Communication theme ended with the book *Peter’s Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats. We enjoyed this book about a young boy who is hesitant to welcome his new sibling into his home. In the end, he has a change of heart.

We are really enjoying our days of fun and discovery in the Extended Day Program!

Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Flynn, Miss Furman, Miss McMichael, Mrs. Opferman, and Mr. Salinetro
We are always hard at work... or is it “hard at play”? Whatever it is, we have lots of fun in Extended Day!