Our Extended Day exploration of Transportation included boats, bicycles, trains and hot air balloons. Come along for the ride and discover the fun and learning we experienced during our travels!

In Mr Gumpy’s Outing by John Burningham, Mr. Gumpy enjoys taking his boat for a ride on the river next to his house. One day, some children ask to come along on the ride. He tells them yes, as long as they don't squabble. Before he knows it, Mr. Gumpy has a boat full of animals in addition to the children! They squabble, bleat, muck about and chase each other until, "oops!", the boat tips and everyone falls into the river. They climb out, and after drying in the hot sun, Mr. Gumpy invites them to tea at his house. What an exciting day for Mr. Gumpy!

After listening to the story, we gathered props, which included hats, stick animal puppets and a wooden rocking boat. Some friends reenacted the story of Mr. Gumpy while other friends practiced being an audience member. Water color painting various boats, practicing lacing with boat lacing cards, and constructing boats in the Woodworking Center added to our boat activities. In the kitchen, we made boats using celery as the boat and cream cheese and raisins as the people.

Curious George Rides a Bike by H.A. Rey reminds us curiosity is, of course, a wonderful trait! Sometimes though, curiosity leads little monkeys such as George into some mischievous and unsafe behavior. Luckily, the Man With the Yellow Hat is always there to help George learn. In this story, George does lots of fancy tricks on his new bike. Curious about what is beyond his yard, George wanders too far from home against the instructions of his friend. He makes people's newspapers into boats, wrecks his bike, joins an animal show, and feeds a bugle to an ostrich. Fortunately, his friend finds him and brings him home. George is reminded about staying safe by following one of our basic school rules: "Listen the first time."

We practiced riding bikes as we took a bicycle driver’s test in the Green Room DMV. Some friends painted a cardboard box to represent a house and the following day some friends practiced delivering rolled up newspapers to the painted house. Bicycles created from pipe cleaners and monkey puppets made with paper lunch bags and various supplies allowed the friends to create objects from the story. In the kitchen, we made stop lights using fruit slices to represent the lights.
In The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper, a train full of toys and food for children breaks down and several large engines will not be bothered with helping at all. The only engine that stops to offer assistance is a small, blue engine. It is difficult for the little engine to pull the train over the mountain. With perseverance, encouragement by an optimistic clown, and a steady rhythm of "I think I can, I think I can...", the train makes it over the mountain to deliver the toys and food to children in need. "I thought I could, I thought I could...!"

Similar to the train in the story, we practiced carrying heavy loads using a dolly to support our “freight”. We worked together to build train tracks and complete large floor train puzzles. Creating trains using different shapes and dressing up as clowns similar to the clown in the story added to the fun! In kitchen, the friends assembled a trail mix to share with their families during the Thanksgiving break.

In the story Sally’s Great Balloon Adventure by Stephen Huneck, Sally, a black lab, visits a hot air balloon field. Sally is tempted by the smell of fresh chicken coming from one of the balloons. She follows the scent and falls into the basket of the balloon and the balloon takes flight! Sally is taken on a ride and the people below try and bring her back down.

We created our own hot air balloons using paper, string and a paper cup as the basket or gondola. We learned about dogs, how to be a responsible dog owner, and how to train a dog. We pretended to bring our dogs to the Veterinarian for a check up. We watched a video that showed how a hot air balloon lifts off the ground and then returns to the ground. We experimented with a real hot air balloon and a hair dryer to observe the lift off and return. In the kitchen, the friends chopped vegetables for a Minestrone soup that will be served during our Extended Day Open House.

Our Extended Day books enriched our Transportation Unit and allowed us to experience travel using a variety of vehicles. Enjoy the photos from our activities and adventures!

Mrs. Bird, Miss Furman, Ms. McMichael

Mrs. Opferman and Mrs. Tomer