The **Extended Morning Program** has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Pre-School theme of the month. The teachers support the stories through related activities that include experiences in each of the Developmental Domains. The story is further enhanced by weekly cooking projects with Mrs. Loomis, and daily music with Mrs. Bird. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday's email, with a list of available activities each day.

The newsletter for each theme recaps the related activities through text and photographs, with captions highlighting the developmental emphasis.

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**December Pre-School Theme:**
**Storytelling**
**Author Focus:** Leo Lionni

A picture is worth a thousand words. These photos tell the story of our Storytelling theme at the Children’s School and express just how much we learn from our explorations!

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**Focus Books**

- **TICO and the Golden Wings**
  - Leo Lionni

- **A Busy Year**
  - Leo Lionni

- **little blue and little yellow**
  - Leo Lionni

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**Extended Morning Teachers:** Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Myers, and Mrs. Opferman
Tico gave his golden feathers away to help people. Sean, Ben H. and Ben R. decide who will receive their Feather Gifts.

Harris and Adrian have an opportunity to have conversation as they eat lunch at the same table.

Ksenia and her mom do some activities together at the Extended Day Open House.

A group of friends work hard to peel the backs off of some sticky, golden paper pieces to decorate Tico’s golden wings.

Harris concentrates as he uses his fingers to fit together the small Lego pieces.

The children often have chances to move their bodies during the Group Singing time before lunch.

Buddy mixes yellow and blue play dough to make green as in the story, Little Blue and Little Yellow.

Leeza, Evelyn and Javi choose and then write the name of a friend on their Feather Gifts.

Benny uses people puppets to tell a story on the puppet stage.
Sloane discovers just how many marbles can fit in a small water bottle.

Atticus works on making a tree for each season of the year.

How do birds eat? Friends play a game that uses clothespins as bird beaks to pick up pretend pipe cleaner worms.

Parker and his mom measure the amount of ingredients they want in their open house dessert.

Music, song and props are often used to demonstrate and practice math concepts such as subtraction. In this song, the bumpy ride makes people fall off of the sleigh one and two at a time.

Henry and Adrian are putting their pieces of fence together to see how long it will be.

Tico is a story about friends learning to share and help each other. Friends practice these skills as they build with unit blocks as a group.

Josh is choosing the ingredients for his holiday gift for his family.

Mixing age groups in Extended Morning gives children an additional opportunity to get to know others through play. Evelyn and Siobhan play together while wearing their special Tico wings.
Tomer explores how a catapult works.

Javi uses the chopper to scoop up the fruit he is preparing for the Open House dessert.

Conor practices using scissors in the Art and Writing Center of the Green Room.

Eugene uses a feather as a paintbrush.

Elijah experiments with mixing blue and yellow paint after hearing the story of Little Blue and Little Yellow.

John glues golden feathers onto Tico’s wings.

Sydnee follows the safety routine of holding the handrail as she walks down the stairs from the playground.

Children have the opportunity to observe, discuss, and try healthy lunch choices.

Ava washes her hands before lunch.