Our first week back from winter break was our transitional week. We enjoyed hearing stories about winter and snowy days. We created snowmen, as well as snow flakes.

In cooking, we cut tortilla shells, brushed them with butter and sprinkled them with sugar, before baking. They were delicious!

Our first book in the “Art and Artists” theme was titled “Fancy Nancy” by Jane O’Connor. The story is about a young girl who loves to embellish and accessorize! Her bedroom was very plain until she decided that it needed to be more fancy! In the book, Nancy transforms her bedroom and encourages her parents and little sister to dress very fancy for one enchanted evening. This story is funny and warm. The friends painted ruby slippers, completed tissue paper art, and enjoyed cooking Cinnamon French Toast.

Next we read “Art and Max” by David Wiesner, who is an artist in addition to being an author. Arthur - called Art - knows how to paint and wants to share his wisdom with his friend, Max. The book emphasizes the creation of art through an eye opening adventure. In the kitchen, we formed dough into art palettes using food coloring and then enjoyed them with butter and jam. The friends created art with eye droppers and also painted wooden lizards.

The following week we read the book, “Peter’s Picture” by Valeri Gorbachev. Animals were portrayed as the characters in the story. In the story, a bear named Peter draws a picture and is very proud of his painting. He shows it to several special friends who each want to do something different with the picture, but Peter’s father has the best idea. He makes a frame for the painting in order to display it on the wall!

Using acrylic paint, the friends painted wooden frames that will be saved for later use. We created sponge painted flowers and we enjoyed a fun game: searching for orange objects in the Red Room.

Miss McMichael taught the friends how to sketch a lion, cat, dolphin and rabbit using the Usborne Playtime activity book. “I Can Draw Animals” has very clear step-by-step picture instructions which show exactly what to do. Precise drawing is certainly not demanded of the children, but even very young children are able to achieve some delightful results.

“Art Dog” by Thatcher Hurd is our closing book in this theme. Arthur Dog is a guard at the Dogopolis Museum of Art. He loves his security job as he is responsible to guard “Henri Muttisse” and “Leonardo Dog Vinci” masterpieces. He leads a quiet life during the day. At night, when it is a full moon, he is Art Dog! He dons a disguise and goes out and literally paints the town. In the kitchen, we made dog biscuits and the friends enjoyed creating crayon resist paintings of Dogopolis.