We finished our year in the Extended Afternoon program with a trip to the Rainforest. We explored the animals, their habitat and the climate as we enjoyed stories that enriched our learning.

Our first book, *The Great Kapok Tree*, by Lynne Cherry told of a young man who, with the help of a child and the creatures of the rainforest, realizes the value of a rainforest and decides not to chop down a very large Kapok Tree in the tropical rainforest. We enjoyed making stuffed snakes using stockings, stuffing, buttons for eyes and a long paper tongue. We worked together to build a giant Kapok tree that is towering over our Discovery Area. We planted seeds in paper pots as we discussed what a plant or tree needs to grow. Miss McMichael had the friends color a poster that showed all the foods produced in the rainforest. Bananas, oranges, grapes, pineapples, avocados, lemons, and figs. We enjoyed cooking Baked Banana Crumble for snack.

*Verdi* by Janell Cannon was a bright yellow young snake with sporty stripes that tries to keep himself from growing up and turning green. We spent time exploring the similarities and differences between snakes and worms. We enjoyed learning to play the game titled “Hiss”. With assistance from Ms. Furman, we used a sewing machine to sew pieces of fabric together and then stuffed them to build a very long fabric snake.

Using rulers and Unifix cubes, we measured snakes and worms. In the kitchen, we rolled bread dough into snakes, painted them with a colored egg yolk glaze, baked them and enjoyed tasting them.

*The Umbrella* by Jan Brett helped us discover the many animals that live in the Rainforest. A tree frog, tapir, quetzal, jaguar, toucan, kinkajou and a monkey were some of the animals identified in the story. We played The Flipping Frogs Game which is similar to Tiddley Winks. Painting butterflies with fluorescent colors helped the friends understand the vibrant colors in the rainforest. We had fun making paperbag monkey puppets. We also created tissue paper flowers and then added them to the Rainforest in the hallway.

We have enjoyed our year of discovery and learning through literature. We wish you a wonderful summer with laughter, fun and good books!

*Ms. Furman and Ms. McMichael.*