Little Cloud by Eric Carle

Our first week's focus book in Extended Morning was "Little Cloud" by Eric Carle. The story is about a little cloud that drifts from the other clouds and becomes a sheep, an airplane, a shark, trees, a rabbit, and a clown. He then joins the other clouds, and they turn into one big cloud and then it rains. The children enjoyed making sponge print clouds, gluing cotton balls onto cloud shapes, finger painting, playing in shaving cream clouds, blending ingredients to make "Sky Jello", and making "cloud" dumplings in ABC noodle soup.

Extended Afternoon has a weekly Focus Book that expands on the Preschool 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 Art & Large Motor activities with Ms. McMichael. A brief description of the focus book is included in each Monday's email, and a list of available activities is a part of each day's email. The newsletter for each theme recaps the books and related activities through text and photographs.
No More Water in the Tub! by Tedd Arnold

The focus book for the second week was "No More Water in the Tub!" by Tedd Arnold. In the book, the main character, William, insists that his bathtub be full of water. What he didn't expect was that his bathtub would overflow with water while he is in it. He finds himself riding down through his apartment building, taking William and his unsuspecting neighbors on a great adventure. During this week, we did many fun and educational activities such as: creating monstrous bowls full of bubbles that were used to produce beautiful art work, bathing dolls with soapy water, and using a fun kitchen gadget called a “SodaStream” to make special bubbly treats like Root Beer Floats (made with our homemade Root Beer and frozen yogurt), and comparing various fruits and the amount of water in them.

Froggy Learns to Swim by Jonathan London

Our next week's focus book was “Froggy Learns To Swim" by Jonathan London. Froggy is afraid to learn to swim. After finally learning to swim with encouragement and help from his mother, he doesn't want to get out of the pond!! We really enjoyed learning about water through the activities that went with this story. We used colored pencils to design bathing suits, finger painted froggy, practiced coloring frogs with colored pencils, and jumped over one another in a game of “leap frog"! What a busy week!

King Bidgood's in the Bathtub by Audrey Wood

Our final book in the water unit was, “King Bidgood's in the Bathtub" by Audrey Wood. It is a wonderful story about a King who won't leave the bathtub. No matter how many people try, he won't get out of the bathtub. The knight, queen, the king’s court and several others try whatever they can to get him out of the tub. The king, and whoever is trying at the moment, have wonderful adventures such as fishing, eating dinner, having a battle, and dancing in the tub. It isn’t until the page boy finally decides to take some action of his own and takes the plug out of the tub that finally the king comes out of the tub at the end of the day. We enacted out the story with props, cut and colored paper crowns, made pipe cleaner bubble wands, played with kings and castles, and prepared cucumber bathtubs for snack.
Go, runners, go!

Exercising outdoors means looking for bugs and practicing climbing!

The beautiful spring blossoms make a refreshing background.

Here come the dump trucks!

Swish!

Here she comes, climbing down the bean stalk…

This is how a water wheel works…

Bubble… Bubble… Bubble…

Bubble… Bubble… POP!

Making Mother’s Day gifts…

Taking a closer look at artwork done by students at the Children’s School…

Always smiling!