And we’re off...

...to a great start for the beginning of our school year in Extended Afternoon! We have enjoyed the familiarity our returning students bring to our program, and our new students add so much to our small group. It’s been fun to see everyone becoming acclimated to a new year. We love the ways in which the children have taken interest in trying new things. Here are some more specific ways we are learning.

Our endearing friend, Corduroy, was first on our reading list this year with “Corduroy Goes to School” by Don Freeman. This pleasant bear explores new things at school, just like our friends at the Children’s School. We enjoyed “writing in sand”, and painting the first letter of our names.

We continued discussing the newness of school and our own neighborhoods through the wonder of “Franklin’s Neighborhood” by Paulette Bourgeois. The main character, Franklin the turtle, is challenged by his teacher to draw a picture of his favorite place in the neighborhood. Upon reflection and input from his friends, he realizes that it is the people in his neighborhood that he most enjoys. In Extended Afternoon, we enjoyed interacting with the story through a felt board reenactment, drawing our own favorite neighborhood places, learning about turtles, going on a neighborhood scavenger hunt, and making tissue paper turtles. We also had a great introduction to the kitchen!

“If You Take a Mouse to School” by Laura Numeroff is a fun story about the sequence of events that would occur if a mouse was taken to school. This off-the-wall tale is full of twists and turns that eventually circle around to the mouse going to school, just like the story began! We ate crumbly apple crisp, created mouse ears, built cheese sculptures, played pin the tail on the mouse, ate grilled cheese, and sponge painted cheese pictures, all in honor of our book about a mouse!

“All the Colors We Are” by Kate Kissenger was an interestingly factual book highlighting the variations of different colored skin while making a point that the amount of melanin creates the differing hues in skin. We enjoyed celebrating our differences through taste testing a variety of colored fruits, printing a rainbow with our hands, making “face” flowers, graphing our eye color, and going on a nature walk. What a wonderful start to our year!

Mrs. Loomis and Ms. McMichael
Pause for a smile!

We smile a lot when we get to spend time on our playground!

Cheese is great for a snack, but did you know it can be used for building?

It’s a good thing we bring our appetites to Extended Afternoon!

It’s not easy to pin the tail on the mouse. It takes a few tries to get the hang of it!

One foot up...

Two feet up...

All the way up!