Our Extended Day exploration of Transportation included boats, bicycles, trains and hot air balloons. Come along for the ride and discover the fun and learning we experienced during our travels!

In Mr Gumpy’s Outing by John Burningham, Mr. Gumpy enjoys taking his boat for a ride on the river next to his house. One day, some children ask to come along on the ride. He tells them yes, as long as they don't squabble. Before he knows it, Mr. Gumpy has a boat full of animals in addition to the children! They squabble, bleat, muck about and chase each other until, "oops!", the boat tips and everyone falls into the river. They climb out and, after drying in the hot sun, Mr. Gumpy invites them to tea at his house. What an exciting day for Mr. Gumpy! Activities included handprints of that “pig that mucked about” water color painting various boats, practicing lacing with boat lacing cards, and constructing boats in the Woodworking Center added to our boat activities. In the kitchen using frozen bread dough, we formed boats and painted them with egg yolk and food coloring. Also, snacked on cucumber wheels /car sandwiches and egg boat sandwiches.

Curious George Rides a Bike by H.A. Rey reminds us that curiosity is, of course, a wonderful trait! Sometimes though, curiosity leads little monkeys such as George into some mischievous and unsafe behavior. Luckily, the Man With the Yellow Hat is always there to help George learn. In this story, George does lots of fancy tricks on his new bike. Curious about what is beyond his yard, George wanders too far from home against the instructions of his friend. He makes people's newspapers into boats, wrecks his bike, joins an animal show, and feeds a bugle to an ostrich. Fortunately, his friend finds him and brings him home. George is reminded about staying safe by following one of our basic school rules: "Listen the first time."

We created binoculars using tape and paper towel rolls and took an adventure through the school in search of circles. Paper boats out of newspaper and monkey puppets made with paper lunch bags and various supplies allowed the friends to create objects from the story. In the kitchen we made traffic lights from graham crackers, strawberries, oranges, and kiwi. Also, cooked delicious Curious George Banana Bread.

In The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper, a train full of toys and food for children breaks down and several large engines will not be bothered with helping at all. The only engine that stops to offer assistance is a small, blue engine. It is difficult for the little engine to pull the train over the mountain. With perseverance, encouragement by an optimistic clown, and a steady rhythm of "I think I can, I think I can...", the train makes it over the mountain to deliver the toys and food to children in need. "I thought I could, I thought I could...!"

Similar to the train in the story that carried puzzles and toys for the children across the mountain. We worked together to build train tracks and completed our own puzzles using paints to draw pictures on. We created boats using different shapes and dressed up as clowns similar to the clown in the story added to the
fun! In the kitchen, the friends assembled a trail mix to share with their families during the Thanksgiving break.

In the story Sally’s Great Balloon Adventure by Stephen Huneck, Sally, a black lab, visits a hot air balloon field. Sally is tempted by the smell of fresh chicken coming from one of the balloons. She follows the scent and falls into the basket of the balloon and the balloon takes flight! Sally is taken on a ride and the people below try to bring her back down.

We created our own hot air balloons using paper, string and a paper cup as the basket or gondola. We experimented with a real hot air balloon and a hair dryer to observe the lift off and return. In the kitchen, the friends created dog bones from dough and enjoyed them warm from the oven. We played tug-of-war in the hallway in honor of the dog’s favorite game to play.

Our Extended Day books enriched our Transportation Unit and allowed us to experience travel using a variety of vehicles. Enjoy the photos from our activities and adventures!

Miss Furman and Ms. McMichael