

# HOW THINGS GROW

May 2016



- CELEBRATING A WONDERFUL YEAR TOGETHER WITH THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON FRIENDS AT THE TEDDY BEAR PICNIC!

During the last weeks of school, the friends at The Children's School cultivated ideas surrounding the theme, How Things Grow. Spring holds many opportunities for observing living things and we used a combination of literature and real-life specimens to ground our explorations. Books like "From Seed to Dandelion" by Jan Kottke, "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle, "Daisy and the Egg" by Jane Simmons, "Whose Egg?" by Lynette Evans, and "Butterflies Fly" by Yvonne Winer rooted our knowledge and helped our concepts bloom. It never hurts to sing a few songs to help remember newly learned

ideas and "Sun, Soil, Water and Air" and "The Green Grass Grew All Around" were some of our favorites.

To bring the information from the books alive (literally), we planted and watered grass seeds. We followed the webcam that focused on the Pittsburgh eagles' nest and saw the eaglets grow. We waited for the Kindergarten chicken eggs to hatch, were disappointed when they didn't, but still saw some growing chicks when the Kindergarten brought in some recently hatched birds. We also had the chance to observe the entire life cycle of a butterfly. The friends marveled at the

rapid growth of the caterpillars, constantly checked the chrysalises, and then rejoiced when they finally emerged as butterflies. Our theme culminated with the planting of a collaborative garden and the release of our butterflies. Thank you to all of the volunteers who lent their time and enthusiasm to helping our young friends get the plants into the ground!

In gym, Mrs. Wendolowski led us in some of our favorite games and activities from this past year, like playing "What Time is it Mr. Fox?" and zooming around on scooters.



BENNY USING A STRAW TO EXPLORE HOW ROOTS WORK.



COLBY WATERING THE GRASS SEEDS WE PLANTED.



SLOANE AND JOSHUA TENDING THE WATER TABLE GARDEN.

# CULTIVATING YOUNG MINDS



Conor splatter painting an egg shape. We learned about egg-laying animals like birds and caterpillars.



Josie counting out five lima beans. We put them in a bag then watched them sprout.



Max and Connor working the registers in the Red Room Flower Shop.



Sydnee observing the characteristics of daffodils as she sketches a picture of one.



Joshua tending his garden in the sand table.



Sloane adding some color to her butterfly.

# KNOWLEDGE STEMS FROM HANDS-ON LEARNING!



Josie looking for the perfect dandelion to add to her collection.



Benny and the Red Room friends pretending to be inside a seed with Mrs. Hrabec.



Conor remembering the roots and the trunk while constructing a tree.



Isaiah and Sydnee dissecting beans to see the beginnings of the roots and sprouts.



Colby mixing and swirling colors then using his finger to draw shapes, letters and flowers.



Max taking a closer look at the Kindergarten's collection of bird nests.

# THE GREATEST GROWTH HAS BEEN IN US!



**HAVE A FUN AND  
SAFE SUMMER!**

**WE HOPE ALL OF OUR  
FAMILIES ENJOY THE  
BREAK!**

## Our final “Thank you”...

We need to show our appreciation for those who helped to make our last few weeks together just a bit more special. Thank you to Aya’s mother who shared a story with the Red Room friends. Thank you to Isaiah’s mother and Harris’ mother for reading stories to the morning Blue Room friends. And thank you to Connor’s grandparents and Max’s mother for the books shared with the afternoon Blue Room friends. As always, thank you to Mrs. Hraber for

the wonderful music experience this year and to Miss Debbie, the librarian, for the songs and stories.

In reality, we want to express our gratitude to all of the individuals who contributed their time, talents, resources and encouragement throughout the year. But most importantly, thank you for sharing your children with us and we hope you enjoyed this year at The Children’s School as much as we did!

Mrs. Tomer

Mrs. Marshall

Mr. Salinetto

Mrs. Loomis