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**StoryMaking Unit 2**

*Making Stories Using Colors and Feelings*

Date:

Dear Parents,

During the second quarter, we studied colors and how they relate to specific feelings. Your child learned a large bank of vocabulary words to describe how their characters were feeling in their story, such as elated, glum, and nervous. During our StoryMaking time of day, we used a variety of materials such as collage, blocks, and new art materials like watercolors to help them build their story.

Throughout this unit, your child used these materials related to specific colors and feelings to build their characters and settings to imagine, play, make, and share their story. They learned how to come up with new ways to start a story and also how to create more-detailed illustrations. Our class studied the work of Janan Cain, an author and illustrator of children’s books, to learn how she adds facial expressions to her characters by studying her illustrations. Your child has now published a story that they have been working on, and we are celebrating all we have learned as StoryMakers this quarter.

We are cleaning out our StoryMaking folders to prepare for the next unit. Please find attached a few work samples from this unit that your child created. You might find an illustration where they are beginning to add weather details to their setting, a picture of them building a story with a material from their explore stations, or even a sample of their own writing.

Our next unit will focus on making and sharing stories based on our own lives and memories. We will be reading the book *Building Our House* by Jonathan Bean. In his book he displays photos of his childhood and then writes a story explaining his memory. Soon we will be requesting family pictures of special events that we can use throughout this study to write stories about special times and memories in our own lives. We are very excited about beginning this new StoryMaking unit! I can’t wait to share with you all the stories that emerge from your child during third quarter as we investigate new emergent writing skills and strategies.

Sincerely,

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