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**StoryMaking Unit 3**

*Building Our Own Stories Study*

Date:

Dear Parents,

During the third quarter, we explored a variety of blocks and loose parts to make new stories to tell. We read the book *Building Our House* by Jonathan Bean, in which he displays photos of his childhood and then writes a story explaining his memory. We learned to use pictures and sketches of buildings, structures, and special memories we experienced to inspire our stories this unit.

Your child learned to imagine, make, play, and share stories that not only included “who” (the characters) the story was about, but also included “where” (the setting) the story took place in their illustrations and words. During their StoryMaking time of day, children used many new materials, such as Velcro hair rollers, sand models, clay, and blocks to first build their story. Then students used the photograph of their building or artwork to tell and write the story in their mind.

Throughout this unit, your child studied how to add more details to their drawings by using the shapes they were learning to help them create more realistic people and buildings represented in their story. They observed the work of other illustrators and used these same strategies of adding details of what the setting looked like to make their illustrations come to life.

We are cleaning out our StoryMaking folders to prepare for the next unit titled “Let Our Ideas Shine Through.” Please find attached a few work samples from this unit that your child created. You might find an illustration where they are drawing clearer images of the people and places in their story, a picture of them building a story with a new material from their explore stations, or even a sample of their own writing.

Our next unit will focus on creating stories with multiple characters about other times (day and night) and places. Students will be using new materials related to light and reflection, such as mirrors, flashlights, light tables, and shiny objects, to first make their story before they share with others. We will be reading a variety of books such as *Blackout* by John Rocco, *The Dark* by Lemony Snicket, and *At Night* by Jonathon Bean. Each book demonstrates how the authors created characters to tell a realistic fiction story about something that happened during the day or at night. We will also being studying the illustrations in books to see how we can paint or draw the daytime and nighttime sky. If you would like to contribute to this exciting unit, we would appreciate any donations for our StoryMaking process. Materials such as aluminum trays, black sand, batteries for flashlights, shiny jewels or other reflective materials are greatly appreciated!

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 this final quarter as we let our ideas shine through and grown into stronger StoryMakers!

Sincerely,

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