

Dear parents,

This week we continued to explore literature through art and dramatic play. Our inspiration was *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. In the story, Baba knits her grandson Nicki a pair of white mittens. Nicki goes out to play in the snow and drops one of the mittens. The mitten then becomes a haven for a collection of forest animals. Picture books are a great way to introduce new, rich vocabulary: “Nicki saw a white shape in the **distance**. It was the lost mitten **silhouetted** against the blue sky.” We talked about these and other words that were new to the children.

We had fun bringing the story to life in a variety of ways. The children stitched their own white mittens and added them to the wintery sky that they painted last week. In addition to recreating the story with a child sized mitten and a collection of small animal toys, the kids had a ball acting it out at circle time. A white sheet became Nicki’s mitten, and our little and not so little animals huddled up inside until, tickled by the mouse’s whiskers, someone let out a giant sneeze. Your children can tell you what happened next.

A Pair of Socks by Stuart J Murphy is another wonderful story we read this week. A striped sock searches for its match. We talked about “pair” of mittens and many things that come in pairs, or two’s: “socks”, “mittens”, “gloves”, “boots and sneakers”, and “ears and eyes”. At circle we played a matching game with real mittens and socks.

The Alphabet Mystery by Audrey and Bruce Wood continues to be a class favorite. Inspired by the book the children are stamping ABC’s and adding alphabet stickers to Charley’s “rocket ship pencil”, pink birthday cakes, and Giant M’s castle.

Here is a read aloud of The Alphabet Mystery:

[Preview YouTube video Alphabet Mystery by Audrey and Bruce Wood Read Aloud Alphabet Mystery by Audrey and Bruce Wood Read Aloud](#)

And the busy week was capped off by school photos today. Your children were excited, well behaved and exceptionally cute!

Wishing you all a good weekend,
Beatrice and Rachel





