

# BLUE ROOM

## NEWS

January 2017

### This Month's Interests & Experiences

*The building platform:* Our new building platform seems to have reinvigorated the building area. We see each & every child spending time on the platform daily building imaginative creations, forming train routes, making roadways thereby growing their understanding of gravity, balance, & symmetry with creativity & collaboration.

*Forts & "Big Building:"* We have witnessed lots of fort building on the playground this month. Children have been working together to gather & arrange large materials into an enclosed fort for socio-dramatic play (i.e. playing family, pets, castle). The new "cube" in our classroom has lent itself to this style of play as well.

*Job Book:* Because we believe the school is a place of community we feel it must also be a place of participation! The progression of the year has revealed what tasks & helpful actions are needed to maintain our classroom as a space of shared responsibility. The children brought these "jobs" to light during a series of democratic Morning Meeting conversations which led to the creation of "The Job Book." Each morning, the children select a job (unless they are scheduled to visit the Studio with Karissa) to fulfill for the day by moving their velcro photo to the photo of that job. The Book lives on the table at the entrance of our room- check it out!

*Ballet:* Wintertime, with its weather-related playground limits, is a great time for Kalei to bring ballet into the classroom. It's wonderful to see veteran Nesters bring their past experience with ballet to life again, referencing ballets we've researched together (namely: *Swan Lake*). Many children are involved in extracurricular ballet classes which further scaffolds the children's work. As noted above, we have observed the children orchestrating "performances" in their socio-dramatic play. These usually involve a large group of children collaborating to set up a stage, choreograph, perform, & watch.

We're the **Blue Room** Now!

Have you noticed our new name? As we transition to our new title we wanted to take a moment to share our motivations with families as we did with the children. The names & labels we chose to use speak loudly -consciously or not- of our identities, intentions, & preconceptions. At our old 797 Moreland location, the 3 classes took the name of a bird. Although children contributed to the picking process, those children have since graduated. When we relocated the faculty felt it was unbecoming to transfer the bird names; not only had they become arbitrary but we expanded from 3 classrooms to 4. We tabled the name issue until we acclimated to our new space but as the months past we felt ready to reopen the dialogue. Our interim delineation by age had also become inappropriate as the "One Year Olds" turned two, and so on (plus: what does "Multi-Age" mean to our children?). After deliberation we made a common-sense choice to rename the rooms by their accent color! Colors are relevant and recognizable to children while allowing the potential of versatility in the future.

