

The Story of 2 West P.M.

2.17.2023



On Thursday and Friday, the carpet was rolled up, and the tables and chairs moved to make space for the whole class to build with wooden blocks at the same time. The 2WAM class left their construction site up for the 2WPM class to admire and feel inspired by, and then the children in 2WPM left their construction site up for the children in 2WAM to do the same! Each class had the chance to do a "museum walk" of the other class's work!



Construction Workers in the Spotlight & Wooden Block Construction Site

Vocabulary has included: carpenter, electrician, plumber, mason, construction, excavator, crane, hard hat, dump truck, cement truck, concrete, jackhammer, bulldozer...etc.

We discussed how construction workers are such important community helpers. We explained that construction workers create far more than buildings, working on projects that include building subway tunnels, airports, roads, bridges and more for our city and world.

The students in 2 West, using all of their classroom's wooden blocks, set out to work on their own construction projects! We as educators know how blocks are an ideal material for young children. Often children engaged in block building show an increased attention span as they work out various play themes, experiment with an array of block structures, and see their plans through. There are many benefits to block building in preschool, as well as, in primary school. These benefits include providing a space for: **problem-solving** (as children invent and reinvent their ideas when a structure may call for various sized and shaped blocks and different arrangements), **expressive and receptive language** (as children work together to convey their ideas and use rich language and spatial vocabulary), **mathematics** (as children take into account length, measure, compare, count, match, estimate, notice symmetry, and more), **science concepts** (as children witness gravity, weight, stability, balance and learn through cause and effect - discovering the properties of objects and how they affect each other), **social-emotional growth** (as children learn to share, take-turns, take responsibility when someone knocks someone's building down by accident or intentionally, advocate for ideas, compromise, collaborate, practice conflict-resolution, and so much more), **motor skills** (as children lift the heavy blocks and place them, as well as, navigate their bodies so as not to bump into what was made), **imagination** and **self-expression** (as the children use this open-ended toy to see an idea through they notice that there are a multitude of possibilities each and every time they come to the blocks), **build resilience** (When a wobbly tower continues to fall, it provides a great opportunity to praise how that child kept on trying and didn't give up, or praise how the child was flexible and looked for new solutions as we prefer to praise process over product). As you can tell, we love blocks!

We wish you a lovely long weekend, and look forward to seeing your wonderful child on Wed. 2/22!