As spring arrived, the Red Room and Blue Room friends entered into the last unit of the school year, Bugs! The friends began noticing bugs everywhere, from the classroom displays to bugs on the playground to bugs at home and on the way to school. We were buzzing on bugs! During the unit, we focused on four different types of bugs: Butterflies, Ants, Bees, and Spiders.
To begin, the friends welcomed caterpillars into both classrooms, observing how the life cycle of a butterfly begins. The friends learned through observation, stories, and songs how a caterpillar’s job is “munch, munch, munch” to prepare itself to form into a chrysalis, a cozy home they spin where they rest as they transform into a butterfly. The friends were delighted to watch the process of forming a chrysalis and learned it takes a lot of patience waiting for the butterfly to emerge.

After releasing our butterfly friends into the open air, we welcomed new visitors into the classrooms, ants! The friends were amazed to watch how ants work hard to dig in the sand and dirt, forming elaborate tunnel designs that become the home for the ants. The friends practiced being ants marching in lines to and fro, working together, to bring items back to their “ant hill”, learning that teamwork helps to create a successful day. By exploring both regular sand and kinetic sand, the friends experienced how it takes time and dedication to dig down to create a home.
The friends were excited to learn that bees are great teammates too! They took turns showing off their dances moves as they learned that bees communicate through a Waggle Dance, a type of direction giving dance, to share where the best flowers are located. They used tape to explore how the bees’ legs are sticky to create Pollen Baskets to bring pollen to other flowers and to the bee hive. In the hive, they work hard to create honey for each other to eat and for us to taste as well. While we were buzzing inside, the bees were on full display outside too, providing us with up-close looks to how a bee moves about the day.

To close our unit, we took a look at spiders. The friends were excited to point out the differences in a spider compared to the previous bugs in our unit, learning that while butterflies, ants, and bees are also considered insects, a spider is a bug that is considered an arachnid. The friends pretended to be spiders in the dramatic play center, learning that spiders spin the bugs caught in their web into tight silken balls. Through songs and sewing, the friends learned how spiders not only have 8 legs but 8 eyes as well. They also used a hands-on approach to learn that spiders’ bodies consist of many tiny hairs that eventually molt, shed off, to make room for their newly grown body.
HERE’S THE BUZZ ON BUGS

David uses a hole punch to munch a leaf like a caterpillar.

Adele creates a butterfly design.

Jacob and Nevin observe a butterfly released on the playground.

Chloe and Mateen use shape pieces to create bug art.

Adele helps stuff the spider costume the friends helped to create.

Medha, Nolan, and Cole bead a caterpillar.
Maisie and Kiley use paper cache to create a hive.

Luke and the Queen Bee take a break in the block bee hive.

Melodie and Medha search for pollen.

Andrew marches the ants in a row.

Wally observes the ant farm.

Will and Ezra paint the paper mache hive.
We say thank you to Mrs. Hraber, our music teacher, for a fantastic year! The friends enjoyed each visit, excited to see what Pete the Beat Keeper was dressed as, learning new songs, and exploring a variety of instruments. Thank you for bringing the joy of music into the classroom.

Another thank you to Miss. Debbie, the Librarian, for sharing delightful stories to further our exploration into each unit. The friends always looked forward to the felt board activities each visit, especially enjoying the hide and seek guessing games.

Lastly, a special thanks to all of our families for sharing your children with us this year. We have enjoyed every moment, relishing being part of the children’s learning and discoveries. We wish you a wonderful summer and wish you best of luck in your adventures next school year.

Mrs. Armbruster  Mrs. Loomis  Ms. O’Neill  Mr. Salinetro