As we welcomed the new year, the friends were excited and eager to jump into the routine of school and begin a journey through the Rainforest. We began our conversations about where a Tropical Rainforest is located in South America and Africa by looking at the classroom globes. We noted that while it was cold in Pittsburgh, if we were to visit the rainforest, we would find that it would be very hot and damp there. We continued our journey by focusing on a layer of the Rainforest each week, highlighting a few key animals and plants.

Starting at the bottom, we found the first layer called the **Forest Floor**. The friends discovered that on the Forest Floor it is very dark, because very little light shines through, and that fallen leaves create a layer over the dirt. We were excited to learn how many bugs and snakes roam the forest floor, that the Anteaters search for ants with their long noses, and the Jaguars quietly prowl. We highlighted these animals by creating beaded snakes, pretending to be Anteaters eating “ants on a log”, and working collaboratively to create a painted Jaguar for our rainforest mural.
Continuing our journey, we ventured next to the second layer, the **Understory**. We learned how many different types of plants grow, noting the patterning in Zebra plants and admiring the beautiful flowers that grow on many different types of vines. The friends created their own unique flower paintings using string and paint, showing off the bright colors you might find in the rainforest. Many friends enjoyed learning that Tree Frogs hop from one place to another in this layer, demonstrating their own frog hopping skills around the classrooms. Along with Tree Frogs, the friends were delighted to see the bright colors of the many butterflies that flutter through the forest.

As we entered into the third layer of the Rainforest, the **Canopy**, the friends were becoming true animal experts. They showed off their monkey calls as we discussed different types of monkeys that live in the rainforest. The friends delighted in the tree tops filled with green leaves as we painted with bright colors to create our own leaves for our mural. The Toucan and Sloth were favorites for video viewing so we could see these animals exploring their habitat. We explored walking very, very slowly through the hallways like a Sloth and using our arms to flap like Toucans.

We ended our rainforest exploration with the final layer, the **Emergent** layer. In this layer, the tree tops meets the bright blue sky, where Harpy Eagles roam and Sugar Gliders leap from tree top to tree top. The friends pretended to be the top layer animals as they hopped, jumped, and explored our rainforest obstacle course.
Drake, Fitz, and Livanya paint using green and brown to make rainforest vines.

Russell builds using tree blocks.

Jason finds the matching butterfly.

James and Lev work together to make paper chain vines.

Paloma paints a string to create her flower art.

Ava plays Ants on a Log.
Lexi leading us in a sing-along.

Elliot, Jason, and Atlas try to catch the raindrops from the rain frame.

Alice B. helps Mrs. Loomis sew a fabric snake.

Alice K. and Malina fill their rainstick with rice.

Isabelle and Emmet take a close look at a book.

Mollie and Addy play hide the snake.

Rowan spreads sunbutter to make “ants on a log.”

Kiran using scissors to cut an Anteater shape.
Welcome to Miss Kim and Miss Hwang, who are visiting from Duksung University, located in South Korea.

Lev and Isabelle listen to Miss Kim read a story.

Jacob and Miss Hwang work together to build a color snake.

**Upcoming Events**

** No School: Monday, February 17th **

** Family Festival: Thursday, March 5th **

** Spring Break: March 9th - 13th **