

# Atelier Reflections

**This February has been a busy time in the Atelier. The month of February is often associated with compassion and love so it seems only natural that the children have organically begun to show an interest in showing care and affection. Because of this, we asked the children to explore what the caring means to them. Our discussions touched on the many ways we can care for ourselves, our families, our friends, and our community. This dialogue expanded to include school care, which the children explained as "No running inside" (Sabra P.), "Being nice to our materials" (Jack T.) , "Helping friends (Jordan C.)". As a show of thoughtfulness, two of our classmates Nicholas and Jackson, even donated a bouquet of flowers to the Atelier. The children enjoyed examining the flowers parts, and colors, which sparked an interest in creating their own flowers. Often times during morning Tai Chi with Ms. Rachael, the children are asked to imagine they are butterflies searching for their perfect flower. By examining real the flowers, we were able to use colored paper to cut out and identify the real flower's shapes through examining real flowers and using their minds to imagine ideal flowers, the children were able to take their former experiences and apply it to creating their own flowers from scratch! As each child worked hard to create their own flower, we quickly realized at the end of work period that no two flowers were alike!**

**To further this idea, we chose to place our flowers side by side to create a unique Wild Roots garden. From this one small donation the children were presented the opportunity to learn about individuality, as well as experience the many different solutions to one single problem. We hope to expand on this concept next month when we begin our community rock project!**

