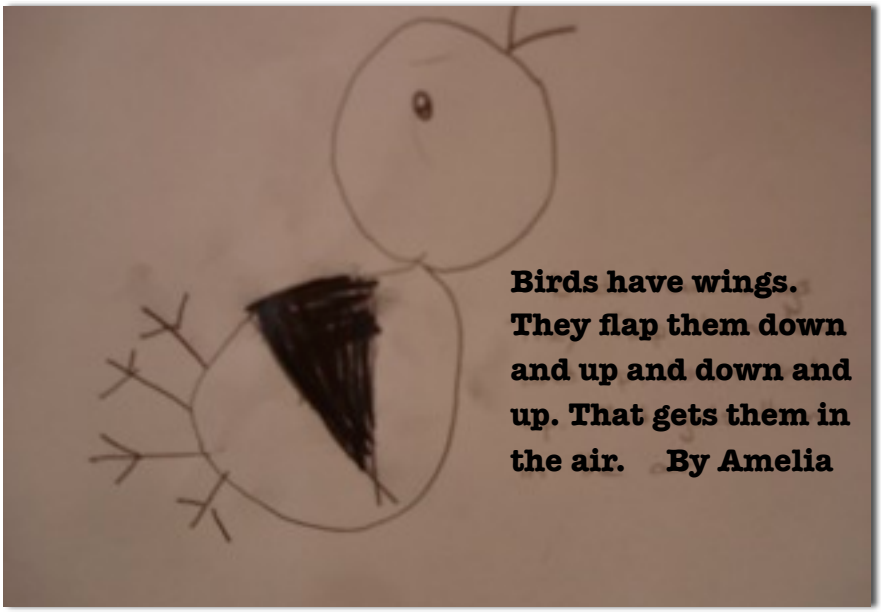
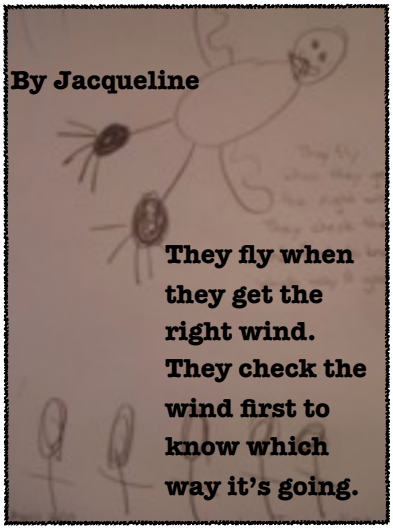
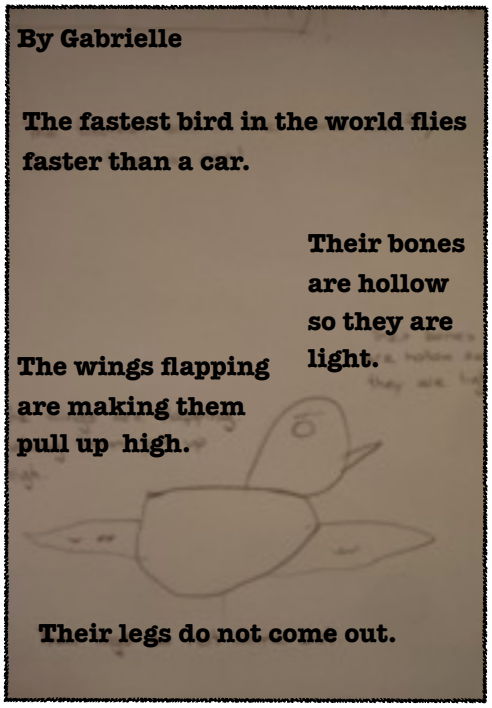
THE SK KIDS WANT TO KNOW: HOW DO BIRDS FLY?

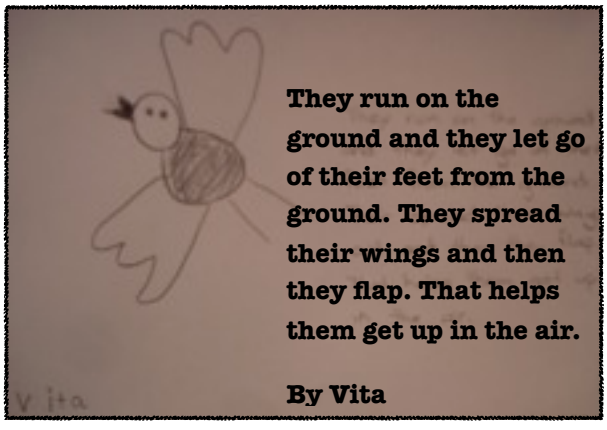
The Sk class is currently reading "The Trumpet of the Swan" by E.B. White. Early on in the novel, Louis the Swan wonders whether he will ever know how to fly. That got us thinking about all the birds we see in the city, and how they manage to fly. Here are some of the ideas the SK kids came up with.





The children's first ideas touched on aerodynamics, body construction and kinesthetic energy. Take offs, flying and gliding were all considered.

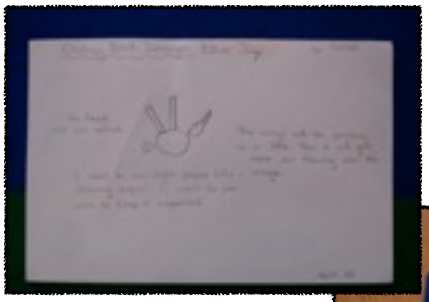




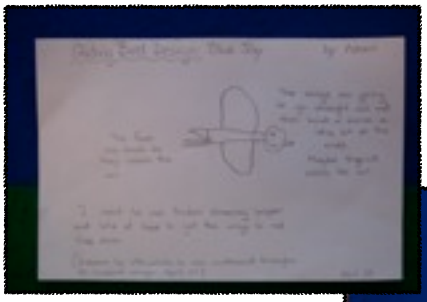
MAKING BIRD GLIDERS

We began talking about how birds glided. What helped them soar? Was it their size, their weight, the shape of their wings? The children designed bird gliders and are in the process of building their first models.

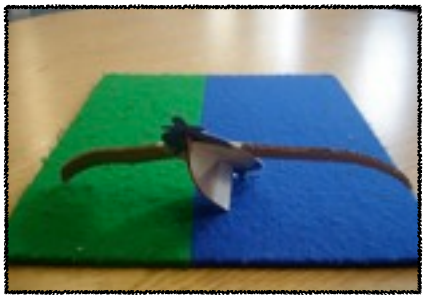
The children used drawing paper, construction paper, tissue paper, styrofoam, cardboard, wire and wood to build their bird gliders. They came in all shapes and sizes. Soon we will test the gliders at the park for both distance covered and duration of time in the air.



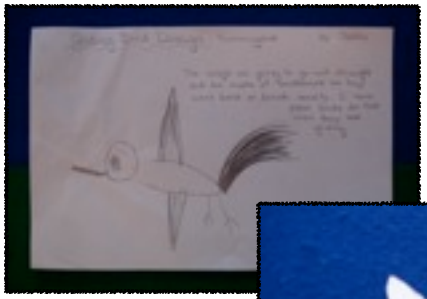
Norah wanted to use paper to keep her horned owl light but used wire to keep her glider strong and to shape the wings into a slight curve up.



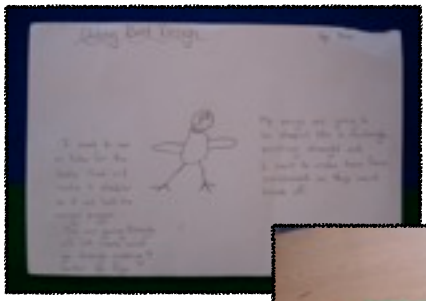
Adam used thick paper with lots of tape to keep his wings from flopping down. He put a bend in the wings. "Maybe they will catch the air."



Cole added a keel-like launcher beneath his glider, an innovation borrowed by many of his friends.



Sadie's hummingbird is small but sturdy. She intends to add feathers to the tail to give her glider stability.



Yoav decided to use a thick tube that would allow the air to pass right through, and strong cardboard for the wings.