

Hi Parents and happy Friday!

What another wonderful week! Legos, cup buildings, nature walks, tree visits, and more! We kicked off this week with one of my all-time favorite activities that incorporates math and our imagination! I gave the class the challenge of building a tower using red solo cups, any tower, any height (to start). Some stacked multiple cups, others used two and said it's a house. After letting them explore on their own and discussing their plans with their peers, I then asked them if they could build a tower using 10 cups. "But Ms. Anna, how? They have a hole!" After some teamwork and persistence, we did it! This then lead to the kids challenging themselves and each other to see who could use the most cups to stack the highest tower! Not everyone was interested or participated, but that's OK! We can try again next week and the cups aren't going anywhere anytime soon! I have a feeling next week's newsletter will have some cup building updates:)

For one of our morning challenges this week, I asked your child if they could be any animal in the world, what would they be and why? This was hard! Initially, I heard some discussion about the typical house pets, cat, dog, and bird. However, those answers quickly changed and how they changed was quite fascinating to see and hear. The class started discussing different animals with each other and their reasoning as to why. Here are some of their quotes I was able to write down:

- "Well I don't want to be a pet bird, I want to be an outside bird and actually be able to fly."
- "I like bears soooo much, but wouldn't be a polar bear. They live in the cold."
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- One student to another- "Ouuuuu a CHEETAH!" Response from student b-"Yea, but cheetahs run super fast, you'd get tired. You don't even run at the park."

Ask your child what animal they chose and why! What would you be? Personally, I would trade lives with my dog Plato (yes, that is really his name-he's a very philosophical golden retriever) or Nala (our rottie angel) any day:)

HUGE thank you to Marie Jonski for donating the biggest bag EVER of Legos! We were overwhelmed with all the different shapes, colors, styles, etc. that the kids decided all on their own, to sort them based off color! "Ms. ANNA! WE ONLY HAVE FIVE BINS TO PUT THEM IN! WHAT DO WE DO!?" I simply asked them if they could double up, or even do triple, in each. We're not done yet, but so far we have a red/orange bin, yellow/tan/brown bin, pink/purple, green/blue, and black/white/grey.

"Our tree is falling apart!" Not really, but because it stands next to a low power line, the city seemed to have given our tree an awkward triangular cut. We visited today and collected some leaves to put on our own tree in the classroom, but they haven't all changed colors yet! Ask your child: what did you write for your prediction? were you surprised? were you accurate? etc.

Reminders:

- Book orders were sent home today and are due by next Friday, November 3. The link to place your child's order is <https://clubs.scholastic.com/on/demandware.store/Sites-rco-us-Site> and our classroom code is MRX4Z. Books make an excellent gift!
- Our classroom is holding our first service project of the year and we are very excited! I sent home a letter you can all look over. For every pair of new pajamas donated, Scholastic will match with a book to give children in shelters and make their nightly routine a little bit happier:)
- CONFERENCES! It's that time of the year parents and we're about to have our first conferences! Sign up is now available and the link is <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f49aaa928a5fe3-conferences1> Please sign-up at your earliest convenience to reserve the spot that works best for you.
- WE STILL GO OUT FOR RECESS! Parents, please check the weather prior to the school day-I know today totally crept up on us, however, with the winter season quickly approaching, we must

always ensure your children are dressed and ready. I have made you all a copy of the winter weather guidelines we follow. If the feels like is above 25, just like today, we will continue to have our full recess time. PLEASE make sure your child has the appropriate winter gear (heavy coat, gloves, hat, boots if necessary, scarf, etc.) Feel free to leave a pair here, too.

- Lastly, parents please keep in mind when packing lunches to keep sugary treats to a limit. Nothing frosted, no candy, and chocolate goodies should be kept to a minimum. As a class, we actually came up with a lot of healthy snacks we could eat and some of the TOP HITS by your children were berries, (super popular were strawberries, blueberries, etc.), cheese and crackers, pretzels, pineapple, goldfish, apples & applesauce, plums, bananas, etc.

Have a WARM weekend everybody!

-Ms. Anna