

PLATO ACADEMY

PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 25, 2017

Hello Families!

What a wonderful first week of school! We are so happy to get to know our students! And the students have been busy exploring our classroom and learning our routine. We are really excited for this year!

At this age, often children won't be able to tell you what they did at school when asked. Sometimes they don't want to but mostly they may not be able to remember at that moment or on cue. Talking about the day during a comfortable time of the evening like dinner, bath time or story time before falling asleep can give you a better picture. Don't worry; they will begin to tell you soon!

During classroom exploration, the students are free to move about the room to interact with each other and all that we have. The art area has been a big hit. They have worked with paint, crayons, markers, glitter glue and stickers. Always check their mailboxes to see what masterpieces have been created at pick up time! We have an easel where they can work with dry erase markers and chalk.

The kitchen/house area has proven to be very popular and the students have expanded it throughout the room as they took care of the baby dolls, cooked various meals and had picnics. They dressed up and role played family, doctor, and restaurant. We think we even had some police officers and fire fighters. It has been pure joy for us to listen to the rich conversations that have taken place amongst them! And the fun conversations between all of us.

Our building materials consist of different types of blocks and other materials, such as magnetiles, and Duplo Legos which bring different types of structures. The students have built tall towers and long, low buildings. They experimented with balance and strength to build what they wanted. Again, whether they were building together or beside each other, there were so many conversations about what they were going to build, how to build it, and what materials will be used.

On the rug... we use the rug for many activities. It is the place for gathering for songs, music and movement, books and stories, and other toys and objects to exercise their fine motor skills. There are also games that they can play on the carpet or at tables.

We made play dough. When making it, we use math skills by measuring the ingredients so that we have a successful product. We use our observational skills to see how the dry ingredients blend with the liquid ingredients to get the consistency we need for making cookies, or hotdogs, or pizza. Small muscles in their hands and arms are used to manipulate the play dough to make what they want. Tools are shared and used during their time at the table.

The water table! It's probably been the most visited feature of the classroom this week! Not only do they get to splash, touch and feel, but they scoop and pour and empty and repeat. They may scrub an object with a brush or they may pour water into a sieve and watch it flow through or pour water through a tube/pipe and observe it come out of the other end(Not always back into the table!) Towels are always available for drying hands and floors and clothes, etc.

The students are doing well with our routine. They have met their specials teachers and they have told us that class time has been fun. Bathroom breaks are often and we are so proud of how they have shown good self-help skills! Accidents do happen and are expected early on. We handle them on a positive note and move forward. Thank you for your assistance in providing extra clothes to help this process!

Books that we have read aloud in class this week; *Pete the Cat-Rocking in My School Shoes*, *Please Mr. Panda*, *Groovy Joe-Dinosaurs and Ice Cream*, and *Go Dog Go*. They were requested over and over. Next week, we will walk to the library to borrow books to have in the classroom library.

We'll leave you with a few reminders:

Gym shoes that close all around the foot are important. Water shoes, dressy shoes, crocs and sandals are not to be worn in school. They do not have good traction for running and climbing and the wood chips get stuck in them.

Please send healthy foods for lunches and snacks. Chips, cookies and candy don't provide the nutrition and energy needed for the day. *If your child will be in Aftercare for an hour or more, please provide extra snack so that they aren't getting too hungry. Examples of some healthy snacks are: fruit (cut up in bite-sized pieces), veggies, pretzels, graham crackers, yogurt/gogurt/danimals, oatmeal or granola snack bites/bars as long as they do not (may) contain peanuts or tree nuts.

Lunches from home have looked very healthy and yummy! If your child does not finish or doesn't like a particular food item, we try to send it back home so that you are aware of what they ate and can discuss with your child what to put in that they will eat.

Please, please, please... Make sure that your child has eaten breakfast before coming to school. It is important that they are energized for the morning. They exercise their bodies and brains before lunch at 11:20. That is a long time to go without nurturing our bodies. We do not have the accommodations for students to eat or finish breakfast in the classroom.

Our Shutterfly account should be up and running. Watch for the email invitation and visit often! It will give you a better visual of our days in the classroom and can be a great launching point for discussion of your child's day.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Texting is best since we can usually reply quicker.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's life!

Ciao!

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