

PLATO ACADEMY

PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 20, 2017

Tuesday morning before we walked to Pet Supplies Plus, we had a visitor... Godzilla! He is the bearded dragon in Mr. Chris' classroom. He hung out with us while in his travel cage. We put together a list of questions for Mr. Chris about Godzilla.

Our walk was very exciting! When we got to the store, we saw more than just fish. There were baby Godzillas (bearded dragons), geckos, hamsters, birds, snakes, and a ferret. A man who worked there helped us get the fish we wanted. We also bought fish food and the drops to make the water clear for the fish. We bought 5 Neon Tetras, 5 Striped Danios, and a Plecostomus (the cleaner fish). When we got back to the classroom and while eating snack, the new fish had to acclimate to the water in the tank so the bag was placed into the tank and it floated. After about 10 minutes, we moved them into their new home! Gummy, our Guppy, had 11 new friends! We have been watching them swim around the tank ever since. Thank you to the moms and dads who came with us; Choah, Taylor's mom, and Bill and Niki, Billy's dad and mom!

In the classroom, we have been very busy with various explorations. Early in the week we scooped the seeds and guts out of small pumpkins and gourds to make boats for our counting bears. We spent a few days seeing how many bears each boat held.

Another day at the water table, we experimented with different types of fabric to see if we could blow bubbles through them. We found that it was more difficult with the thicker fabrics, ie. denim. We had to blow harder into the sippy cups.

Another activity at the table was to string beads onto pipe cleaners. This activity involves the use of the small muscles in our hands with a lot of eye-hand coordination.

A new addition to our morning arrival is the sign in wall. The students will move to the wall near the fish tank to sign in for the day. As you will see, each student is in a different developmental stage of writing his/her name. ALL versions are accepted and celebrated! This activity will not only help each student refine her/his pre-writing and writing skills but it also helps to invite everyone into the room for a smooth arrival transition. As the year progresses, we will change the method of signing in.

Ms. Stephanie from the Des Plaines Library visited us for fun stories and music and movement!

The weather has been unseasonably warm so we took advantage of it by doing some activities outside. When we realized that our pumpkins were too large for the buckets, we moved the sink and float experiment to the area by the parking lot. We borrowed Ms. Teresa's pool to do the experiment. The students made their predictions and we found that the big and heavy pumpkins floated!

The other experiment that we did outside was to make rockets using the chemical reaction of baking soda and vinegar. This was an observational experiment. Ms. Soraya filled plastic film canisters with

the two ingredients and closed the lids. When the baking soda and vinegar created gas and bubbles, the lids popped off and if the canister was placed upside down, the rest of the canister would pop off like a rocket. Ms. Soraya also used Alka-Seltzer tablets with water to create the same reaction. We found out that when Ms. Soraya put less water into the canisters, the higher it popped up!

Thank you to the parents who came to Curriculum Night on Friday. We had a blast showing you what part of our day looks like and the fun the students have while learning!

Ms. Teresa's class will be collecting extra Halloween candy on November 1st and 2nd to send to soldiers stationed away from home. Check your child's trick or treat haul and send what you don't want.

REMINDERS...

We are missing quite a few family pictures from our wall. Please send a picture soon. Some of the students ask about their pictures.



We are also looking for the family info pages from Billy, Jaylen, and Olivia. Those were sent home within a few days of starting at Plato.

HALLOWEEN: Please read the Parent Notes from 10/12/17 last week for information on our school celebration. In our class, we will have a fun day consisting of regular exploration with fun Halloween themed games added into our morning. After lunch, treats will be passed out before we participate in the school activities. Please consider non-food treats first. Food treats, if you choose, have to be healthier. Small bags of pretzels, animal crackers, and fruit gummies are perfect. Please double check food labels. We have 13 students total, 5 boys and 8 girls. The students should wear their costumes to school. Please give us a heads up in the morning if they are difficult for bathroom breaks and we will accommodate. 😊 Thank you!

- Please check and update your child's extra clothes box at the bottom of the cubby. Each student should have two FULL (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) changes ready.
- Please send healthy PEANUT AND TREE NUT FREE foods for lunches and snacks. **Please... no chips, cookies and candy.** They do not provide the nutrition and energy needed for the day. 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. Tree nuts are, but not limited to: cashews, pecans, pistachios, hazelnuts, walnuts, almonds. Those are the most used in snacks and other food products. Please help us protect all students! We share the lunchroom and other common areas with the other classes and there are students with severe allergies in the school. Please know that the staff follows the same protocol. **IF THE LABEL READS, MAY CONTAIN PEANUTS OR TREE NUTS, THEY CANNOT BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL. PLEASE CHECK LABELS!**
- Food is not to be shared between students at school. Please continue conversations at home about this. It is very important for the safety of all students.
- If your child is signed up for school lunch, please make sure you send a separate snack for the afternoon.
- If your child will be in Aftercare for an hour or more, please provide extra snack so that they aren't getting too hungry.

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.

**** Please limit toys from home to only one. Each student is responsible for their item. There is always a chance that an item gets lost or damaged.**

WISH LIST... The below items are wanted for future various activities in the classroom.

Cream of tartar (ingredient for making playdough)

Empty old pill prescription pill bottles (brown, orange, yellow)

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!

Noel and Soraya

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