

PLATO ACADEMY

PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 6, 2017

Hello Families and we have finished our 7th week of school! WOW! The students have really grown since the first week. It is heartwarming to see everyone's smiling faces when they come to school. If there are tears, they are short-lived. Remember to have your child try to do everything him/herself when coming to school. We are coming into cooler weather which means wearing more outer clothing and the faster we help them build good self-help skills, the easier it will be for all of us! Just wait until winter! Be forewarned... we go outside for recess all winter as long as the temperature is acceptable (More info as we get closer to winter).

Our rocket ship is finished! The class has been painting and gluing and Ms. Soraya helped put it together. It has a door and a window. We have blasted off to the moon, sun, and the stars. We have learned that rockets need fuel which makes fire to propel them into space. We then explored ways to move other objects. Marbles rolled down inclines and across flat ramps. We can move them on a flat surface by blowing on them or through a straw. We also used our own air to move colored water beads on the smooth side of freezer paper. The colors mixed to make new colors. We also made balloon rockets to fly across the room on string. Ms. Soraya blew up the balloon and each student let it go. We learned that it even flies up when we hold the string lower on one end! Some words that we learned this week: propel, launch, countdown, orbit, and gravity (still working on that one). We learned that we live on Earth and the moon orbits Earth.

On Thursday, we made treats for the bake sale on Friday. Thank you to Allison's parents who donated gloves and masks to help with germ free food prep! Wait until you see the pictures on Shutterfly! We heated water to put into a double boiler pot to melt the chocolate chips. The students observed the melting of the chips. Some observations were: "The chocolate was hard and now it's soft!" "It smells good!" "Can we eat it?" "Will it get hard again?" "I see smoke." (Noticing the steam from the hot water.) Then the chocolate was spread onto a pretzel rod and we added sprinkles. When the chocolate was dry and hard again, we put the pretzels in fancy bags and we put price tags on them. They were a big hit at the sale!

Sometimes people ask us, "How do children learn when they are only playing?" Our first answer is always, "Come join us any day!" It's always long and drawn out to explain but much easier to show. One example that I will explain today is music, song and dance. We have some songs that the students love to sing. Some are good morning and hello songs, some are good bye songs and some are just fun throughout the day. One particular song that we have been learning is, *Who Fed the Chickens?* By Ella Jenkins. It teaches us about rhythm, beat, and pronouns. Another song, *Down by the Bay* by Raffi has rhythm, beat, and rhyming words. Music also helps learn foreign languages and you will hear your children singing songs in Greek and Spanish. They may not be able to translate the words into English yet, but they will! If you are looking to find those songs, give us a shout and we will try to get links on YouTube for you.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Lee Denim Day and bake sale. As usual, it was a big success! Thank you also to the families who have donated items from our wish list, and other items to use in the classroom!

Reminders:

****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!**

**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.

WISHLIST. The below items are wanted for future various activities in the classroom. This list is for items that you may have around the house and don't use anymore. It is not intended for a family to go out and buy them new:

Used sippy cups
Newspaper

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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