

# PLATO ACADEMY

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

Hello Families!

We welcomed two new students to our classroom community this week, Jaylen and Olivia!

We didn't get to the library this week but will try next week. Miss Noel did stop by there after school and picked up books by author and illustrator, Eric Carle. He has written many books about animals. We have read the following Eric Carle books; *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *From Head to Toe*, *A Home for Hermit Crab*, and two books illustrated by Eric but written by Bill Martin, Jr.: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, and *Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?* We will continue an author study on Mr. Carle and hope to enjoy more of his books!

We have been enjoying new songs and dances. At the beginning of the day, we sing a *Good Morning* song and a *Hello* song to help everyone learn their classmates' names. One of our favorites is the *Party Freeze Dance* song. It is on YouTube if you ever want to search for it. Also, at the start of our day, 8:45, we stand while the *Pledge of Allegiance* is said over the PA system. Each class will have a chance to lead the Pledge. Our scheduled time is in December before the Winter Break. We will remind families as it draws near. We will practice it every day.

Many explorations have happened throughout the week. The water table continues to draw attention. The students have enjoyed scooping and pouring and filling containers. They found out that some of the cups had holes in them and as a result, had to grab a towel and mop up the water from the floor. They are learning that accidents happen and how to follow through and responsibility.

It has been observed that the playdough we made the previous week has dried out so we will make a new batch next week. Maybe we will make a new color!

The students discovered the gears this week. They have been using the small muscles in their hands and eye hand coordination to attach the gears onto bases, pegs, and each other.

One of the times during Tuesdays and Thursdays is *Open Gym*. It gives the students a time to run and move in ways that they can't in the smaller classroom. Sometimes we have an organized activity, other times they do their own thing. In the gym, there are balls, bats, hula hoops, puzzle mats, handball ("tennis") racquets, a basketball hoop, a trampoline, and jump ropes. There are also bigger blocks and ramps for building and making pathways for marbles, balls, etc. Occasionally, we will bring the Bluetooth speaker in and do music activities. Open gym times also help when the weather doesn't allow us to go outdoors for recess. They can run, jump, dance their jiggles and wiggles out!

Recess! We love recess! The students have done a great job walking to and from the park. As you can see in the Shutterfly pictures, we spend our recess with two other classes; Miss Anna and Mr. Chris (Pre-K4, K). So some of them see their older siblings and friends. You can also see that they are everywhere! LOL! Climbing, sliding, running, balancing, hanging on the monkey bars and swinging.

We will repeat the 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. The black shoes that the girls have been wearing with their dress uniforms are fine as long as they have the rubber sole for traction.

Please send healthy foods for lunches and snacks. **Please... no chips, cookies and candy.** They 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.

We are starting a 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  
Old towels, any size

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  
[NoelN23@yahoo.com](mailto:NoelN23@yahoo.com) 773.610.6352  
[sorayacastrof@gmail.com](mailto:sorayacastrof@gmail.com) 312.869.0945