

Dear Parents,

With the weather finally turning cooler, we took a walking field trip to Pets Supplies Plus to purchase items for Simone. I won a \$50 sustaining grant from Pets in the Classroom, and decided that the students should be a part of purchasing what we needed. We discussed what we needed to buy for Simone, as well as doing some math to figure out how far the money would go. Our question of the day today was “If a bag of bedding cost \$10 and we have \$50 to spend, how many bags can we buy?” It was encouraging seeing how the children worked together using a hundreds chart and their fingers to find the answer.

Once we arrived at the pet store, we checked out all the neat creatures they had on display and spotted a baby guinea pig in one of the cages. It was super cute and more than one student suggested we buy it to bring back as a friend for Simone. One student pointed out that if we spent \$30 on the baby guinea pig we would only have \$20 left to buy food and bedding for Simone. With that practical and accurate conclusion, we moved to the small animals aisle and did cost comparisons on all the different brands of bedding and dry food. We were able to purchase two large bags of bedding, two five pound bags of pellet food, and with the remaining three dollars bought a treat for Simone. The students assisted the parent helpers in carrying all of our purchases back to Plato and immediately gave Simone a treat. Simone is one very lucky and well loved guinea pig!

Thanks to the parents who were able to go along with us. It was a long walk and there are some very busy streets between Plato and the pet store. I am so appreciative of your time and generosity. We would not be able to experience all of these wonderful outings without you!

This week we finished our chapter book *Magic School Bus Great Shark Escape*. We discovered that one of the sharks from the book, the spiny dogfish shark measures on average, 48”. We made a chart and had each person estimate how many inches long/tall we were and then worked with partners to find out how long we really were. We put those numbers up on the chart along with our predictions and also the length of the spiny dogfish shark. We compared those numbers and then wrote the symbol for greater than or less than next to our data. Many of the students were right around the same length of the spiny dogfish shark and one or two were longer.

I also brought in an inflatable shark folded up in a box and had the students predict how many inches long it would be once we inflated it. I gave them a hint that it was longer than the spiny

dogfish shark. The estimates were in the range of 50-100 inches , with one student guessing 1000. We used an electric air pump to inflate it and watched as it grew longer and longer. Using measuring tapes and feet by the foot, we measured it and found out it was 72 inches long! Seamore Shark now has a place of honor hanging from our ceiling. Check it out next time you're in the building!

With our STEM buddies this week we played our favorite board games and put together challenging puzzles, as well as worked together to figure out a challenging crossword puzzle with clues pertaining to all the marine life we will be seeing next week at the Shedd Aquarium. We have been reading up on sea creatures and our students were able to identify ocean creatures that their older buddies couldn't!

We completed our first classroom book *A House for Hermit Crab* and the students have been enjoying showing off their contributions and reading it together. We read *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni this week and wrote in our journals about how Swimmy helped the other little fish not to be afraid. Some of the responses included Swimmy teaching them to be brave and helping them work together.

Some reminders: Tomorrow Ms. Dionysia's class is raising money for Hurricane Irma Relief Fund. It costs \$2 per child and they can wear green and black instead of their uniforms. Also, there is a raffle and tickets are .25 or five for \$1. If you want your child to participate please send them with change and/or a dollar bill.

Next Wednesday is our field trip to the Shedd Aquarium. We are super excited since we will have the opportunity to see all of the sea life we have been learning about. Students receiving hot lunch will be provided with a sack lunch. All other students need to bring a completely disposable lunch, including drink/water bottle.

Tomorrow is the deadline for the Scholastic book order if you'd like to order books for your child. You can either order online or send in a check and I will place the order. Our class library has been growing thanks to the great response we've had with the Scholastic orders. We all have been enjoying the new books!

Thanks for sharing your amazing children with me. Have a great weekend!

Ms. Leslie