

Dear Parents,

It's been another busy week and we have been doing all kinds of things! Today we had our first walking field trip to the mayor's office to learn about water . The children had written questions to bring with about how water is cleaned, how it moves through pipes, how we get rain, how it can be different colors, etc. We started our visit in a conference room with Mr. Tom, hearing about how Des Plaines water system works. The children had a chance to share their questions and also share their knowledge about the water cycle. The children did a great job participating and sitting patiently listening and waiting for their turn to talk - which is hard for most of us!

The students were also able to visit the mayor's office on the 6th floor, look out the window to see Plato Academy, and even sit in the mayor's chair at his desk. Other than the view from the window, I think the kids were most impressed with his chair, which spun! Our last stop was the City Council room where the children were able to sit in alderman's chairs and discuss and vote on the topics of whether to allow bikes on the sidewalks and also whether to allow residents to have chickens in their backyards. The children discussed their reasons why or why not and then voted. It was unanimous in favor of bikes on the sidewalks, and a slim margin of 6-5 against chickens being kept in backyards.

We left with some neat souvenirs and a better understanding of how the water system works as well as how laws are passed. Thanks so much to the parents who were able to join us! We would not be able to experience these enriching activities without you.

We met at the end of last week with our other STEM buddies from Ms. Alexandra's class for a paper airplane activity. Each of my students paired up with one of hers and they made paper airplanes and practiced flying them in the hallway. When everyone was ready we had each team fly their planes and measure how far they had flown. The older buddies then helped the younger ones try to figure out the distance in feet and inches. Some planes went several feet and some

were more like boomerangs and returned to the starting point. It was a lot of fun and we look forward to more STEM projects with our buddies.

We continued cooking in small groups and made waffles on Friday. The students worked with their same groups and wrote instructions in their journals using the prompts: *first*, *next*, and *then*. They decided among their groups who would measure, who would crack the egg, and who would stir. Not only were they super excited to make the waffles and eat them, but they were eager to use the extra batter to make waffles for all the other adults and teachers in the building!

This week we are working on our first class book! We read the Eric Carle book *A House for Hermit Crab* and then drew our own versions of homes for hermit crab. We wrote in our journals about what else hermit crab should add to his home. Some of the suggestions: a dog, Mario, seaweed, a starfish, a library, and pencil and paper. Once we have added our writing to our drawings, our book will be complete and added to our class library.

Along with creating our own hermit crab homes, we also painted watercolor paper plate jellyfish. They are hanging up outside our classroom in our gallery of ocean art. Take a look next time you're in the building.

A few notes: I will be sending home the next Scholastic book order tomorrow. They will be due Friday, September 29.

We will be going to the library on Monday, Sept. 26 for Tumblebooks so please send your child with earphones or earbuds. If you want to keep them at school, let me know and I can hold on to them.

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

Ms. Leslie