

**Newsletter #4**  
**(9-15-17)**

Happy Friday!

**Science:**

This week we dove into our Scholastic Science World articles that related to the climate change and how it affects our environment. This was a great article since it related to what we have been following in the current U.S. events. The students were able to watch a short film that showed images of ice caps melting and the floodings around the U.S. later the students were able to read aloud as a class and focus on the essential question: *How might changing climate affect the area in which you live?*. The students focused on this question as they read about a group of young teens like themselves that are challenging the United States government to protect the planet from climate change. Following the article the students worked in groups to answer questions that tied together with the article, some of the questions focus on earth science, biology, and chemistry. At home the students were to work individually on the form “*Take A Stand*” answering the main question: Do you think the U.S. government should or should not take stronger action to curb the production of greenhouse gases?

~ Ask your child what greenhouse gases are and what stance they took in the *Take A Stand* sheet. (*This activity is a part of the students argumentative writing standards, in which they are to support their claims by using valid reasoning from the article.*)

**Math:**

In our Math Scholastic this week, the students studied scientific notation! The students read an article that focused on expressions and equations relating to the Voyager spacecraft that is exploring our solar system. The students used large numbers such as 782,690,000 miles and simplified them as they put it into scientific notation. The students were able to display their understanding of positive and negative scientific notation in their exit slip later in the week.

~ Please ask your child to explain how scientific notation works and the main rule that refers to the importance of where the placement of the decimal should be and why!

**Reading Passage/Roots:**

This is our fourth week of root words and the students are doing a great job at relating roots to words they knew or are learning. It is important for students to understand and properly use root words, prefixes, & suffixes. Teaching prefixes and suffixes is an important part of building better readers and overall learners.

**Renaissance/ Crispin:**

At the start of the week the students worked on their note taking skills as they followed along with a powerpoint introduction to the renaissance. The students took time to ask questions, define unknown words, as well as admire the change in art during the time period. I believe that it is difficult for students to know when and what to write down when researching and or taking notes from a class lecture, this gave them the opportunity to learn what is

important to take away from so much information. The students were able to understand the important role religion played during this time period and how intellectuals wanted society to know more and think outside the realm of religion.

~ *The powerpoint introduced words such as: Humanism, prejudice, vernacular, prosperity, inquiry, scholars, cultural movements!*

#### **Book Talks:**

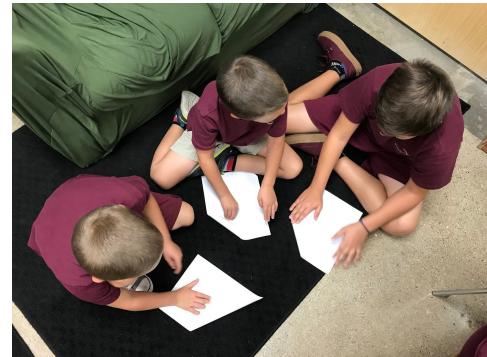
This week we had three book talks, the books that we heard about were : *The Boy on the Wooden Box* by Leon Leyson / *Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt , *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz. Each book was presented in a different way, such as a powerpoint & maps of important settings within the novels.

#### **Brew HaHa:**

The grand opening of Brew-Haha was a success! Thank you to all Plato parents for making this such a successful first week!

#### **Buddy time:**

With Ms. Leslie's class this week the students and I decided to have yet another challenge. This week the challenge was paper airplanes! Scholastic is having a paper airplane challenge that involves only using 5 materials ; 1 paper clip, 3 inches of tape, a dab of glue, paper, & 3 staples. The challenge will be judged by how far the plane will go & how long it will be in the air. The students were able to guide the younger students in building their planes, flying techniques, measuring the distance their planes went and then converted the distance from inches to feet.



#### **Reminders:**

~ Please remind your child to use Khan Academy for at least 20 minutes over the weekend.

Have a great weekend,  
Ms. Alexandra

~ “ It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.”

- Leonardo Da Vinci