

Dear Parents,

Thank you for helping to make the first week a huge success! We have brainstormed and posted topics that we want to investigate and learn more about this year. We will add to the list as the year continues. We are starting with a study of bugs because during this time of year we can observe more bugs. This coming Thursday, August 31st, we want to take a nature hike to observe bugs in their natural habitat. If any of you would like to join us to help chaperone, let me know. We would leave at 9 am and be back before 11 am.

Encourage your child to create a plan on when and where the backpack will be loaded and unloaded. Your child's folder will only be sent home when there are time sensitive papers or signatures required (photo info, community learning opportunities). Also begin the practice of using the bathroom every morning right before leaving the house.

Because the art of communication is vital to a successful education, I compose a few questions each week specific to our learning and investigations. Use these questions found in your weekly newsletters to engage your child in conversation. Then contact me and let me know some of the interesting comments. "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough" - Albert Einstein.

Highlights to discuss with your child:

1. Check out our name art in the hall across from our classroom. This is a great way for students to become more familiar with the names of all their classmates.
2. How was the cicada different from the grasshoppers? How was the centipede the same as the grasshoppers?
3. Have fun singing our bug song with your child: Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen... (They know the rest).
4. We had a wonderful set of fraction fruit and food donated to our classroom. Have fun cutting some of your food into halves and quarters.
5. If you were going to make a book with no words, what would it be about?
6. Ramps and Pathways are off to a great start with the addition of pool noodles for extra ramps. Photos will be posted to our webpage in a few days. Ask your child explain the cool inventions!

Please let me know that you have received this with a short e-mail and please feel free to ask many questions. **This e-mail is also the first contact I make in the event of an emergency school closing. In that case, always respond, otherwise I will continue to call and text until I receive confirmation.******

Also please let me know if you do not receive Office Notes each week. The Office Notes are filled with helpful information and dates about upcoming events at Plato. I do not repeat this information in my newsletter so be sure to read the Office Notes every week.

It would be helpful for every member of your family who wishes to receive my newsletters to e-mail me: "Please send me your newsletters." Grandparents and older siblings are welcome to receive my newsletters so they can join in the fun of finding out some of what goes on every week.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape☺

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