

Dear Parents,

Thanks to Mrs. Leslie for letting Simone, her class guinea pig, visit our classroom Monday. Some of our students remembered that she was coming and brought some fruits and vegetables for her to munch. THANKS! We compared and contrasted the guinea pig to an insect. And once again wrote down our questions for further research. If anyone has a pet at home they would be willing to share with the class, let me know...live observations are a big hit!

I have 2 chaperones for our walking field trip to the Mayor's Office on Thursday, September 28th. We will participate in a mock vote and do a mapping activity which we will use later to hide our inspirational rocks we will be making on Tuesday to join in the Des Plaines Rock Hide and Seek. FUN!

More good news! We are taking a walking field trip to our local fire station on Thursday, September 21st. The Des Plaines Fire Department always does an outstanding job teaching all of us fire safety. If you would like to walk with us to chaperone, please let me know. If either trip is rained out, we will go to the library instead that morning. As you can all probably guess, the walking trips taper off quickly as the weather gets more unpredictable.

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. Which questions about Simon did we get answered and which questions are we still trying to figure out? Please stop by the classroom and have your child read our Guinea Pig Book to you. We researched, wrote, illustrated, and published a book in 3 days. That is a lot to accomplish at any age! 😊
2. What did we do in order to safely take Simone out of her cage and hold her? Do we do the same procedures to hold the insects?
3. On Wednesday twelve new classroom pets arrived. We are the proud owners of a dozen meal worms. We will be raising them with tender loving

care in hopes to see them go through their life cycle of pupa and then emerge as full grown beetles.

4. We brought Ramps and Pathways into our room this week. Ask your child which room he/she thinks is best for our Ramps and Pathways Investigations. Ramps and Pathways is a big success with this group. It is held in the gym on Tuesdays. It is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activity. It is blocks and ramps and marbles. The students communicate, collaborate, and create all sorts of ramps and houses and yoga studios and birthday parties (the possibilities really are endless). Then we test to see how the marbles travel through their inventions. Then we reflect, adjust, and retest, all the time adding vocabulary and perseverance. There are pictures on our class page on the Plato Academy website (the ones with the pool noodle ramps). You will notice that most pictures are the back of the students' heads. This is because they are interested, engaged, and using their critical thinking skills to figure out how to make improvements. I can assure you there are smiles on all their faces. Enjoy looking at the webpage pictures together so your child can explain all the fun behind the pictures.

Please continue to e-mail and/or call me with questions or comments. A little question is still a question.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape