

Good evening Parents and happy Friday!

You guessed it, another fabulous week here in Room 5! This week was all about the difference between prediction and estimation and boy did we have fun! We started out making guesses, also known as predictions, about what I was holding behind my back. Then we had to use our sense of touch to figure out what was hidden in a box! We learned that a prediction is just a guess, you don't quite know what you're guessing about. To help us better understand the difference between estimation and prediction, I presented the class with a clear jar of Orbeez. There were a LOT! I explained that when we make an estimation, we are using the knowledge we already have in our brains to make an educated guess. We can clearly see there are more than 10, but are there more than 100? What does 100 look like? Is there a difference between what 100 Orbeez look like in comparison to 100 beans? If so, what is it? These were some of the questions we discussed before making a prediction about what would happen to these beads if we put them in our sensory table! Each child wrote their name on a chart and recorded their estimation. Seeing as some of us already knew that they would grow, we then made predictions about how long it would take for that to happen. Afterwards, the end result was the most fun! We got to play with them in the sensory table and explore this new "slippery, slimy, soft, bouncy", texture. Some of us even wanted to sort them by color and see how many of each there were and which color had the most!

On Monday, we read one of my favorite books, The Cookie Fiasco by Dan Santat. I had made some chocolate chip cookies to mimic the dilemma of the story about five friends and only three cookies, but they didn't know what to do in order for everyone to get an equal share. Well, the bigger friend was a little nervous and he started breaking all the cookies! After reading the story, I told the class that we were in a similar situation. They broke off into two groups of five, each group with four cookies. Now what? Each group discussed various ways they could share the cookies, some saying just give Ms. Anna two back and we split the other two, then she has to split the other one and everyone gets a half. Another child said, let's just break them in half and see what happens. Ultimately, both groups collaborated and even chose a representative to tell me their best solution was to indeed break the cookies into halves, eat their half, but now what to do with the remaining three halves? They split them again, each got a piece, and gave the last remaining chunk ($\frac{1}{4}$ of a cookie) to me! This was an awesome activity to see how your child uses their social and math skills to come up with a solution.

During drop-off in the morning, some of you may have noticed a "morning challenge" on the board or riddle. This week, they consisted of patterns using various shapes and today we did a couple capital and lower-case letters. If there is a square and then a circle and then a square again, what should come next? Try doing this with your child!

Come in and read our mini books we made about our planets! Your child created their own planet, named it, and wrote some fun facts about it. We also learned a little about gravity and to help us better grasp this, we made some parachutes and even attached a little paper person to drop next week when everyone has finished!

I also wanted to give a quick thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Saam for coming in to read us Alana's favorite book to us for her birthday on Monday! Parents, please feel free to come by and do a special activity, play some games or your child's favorite game, or read your child's favorite book to us on their birthday.

Also, thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Matsas for donating some awesome hand puppets for us to use during our plays and for the amazing new board games! We are so excited and very thankful:)

Reminders:

- There is still time to place your book orders! Let me know if you placed an order because apparently some had trouble going through-I can help!

- PLEASE READ SNACK LABELS! Anything that says <MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF NUTS> is not allowed! Also, no sugary snacks, candies, treats, are allowed. For example, doughnuts, frosted cookies, and candy.
- Please make sure your child has a reusable water bottle with their name written on the bottom everyday. We get really thirsty throughout the day, especially at the park.

That is all folks! Have a weekend as fun as your child(ren), get out there for that gorgeous weather, and read a book together!

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life."-Plato