

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We are in the process of decorating our class tree. It is an on-going daily process. We only have one tree but we have 13 opinions on how it should be decorated. This is collaboration, communication, and creativity at its finest. As you peek in our window and see our tree changing and emerging, be impressed that decisions are being made, that ideas are being voiced, that the art of give and take is being strengthened, and that the joy of creating something new is happening in our room every day!

2. On Tuesday we went down the street to see a live theater production of "The Christmas Toy Shop". Which character was your favorite? Which character would you like to be if you were in the show? How did we make the elf full of Christmas cheer again? How can we help other people be full of Christmas cheer?

3. We are close to the end of our novel study, *Dark Day in the Deep Sea* by Mary Pope Osborne. There are many more books in this series. If you have a chance, stop by the library and choose a few more Magic Tree House adventures to read over the Holiday break. If your child wants a whole bunch, go ahead and say, "YES" to reading. You may not be able to read 20 books but children often enjoy perusing, comparing and organizing the books. Books are fun!

4. We made a scientific observation of some of the snow close to Plato Academy. As it melted we were left with a dirty puddle filled with leaves and sticks. We concluded that eating the snow around Plato is not a good idea. I have many fond memories of eating snow as a child and have no intention of preventing students from fully experiencing the wonder of snow. However even at recess we are learning (this week about when it is not good to eat the snow). Please discuss with your child the difference between snow that is safe to eat and snow that is too close to traffic and crowds of people that it may be polluted.

We are still working hard here at school to zip our own zippers and put on our own gloves. The faster we get all bundled up the more recess we get! Let's make a New Year's Resolution that everyone zips their own coats. Think of it this way, if you think it takes too long to wait for your child to zip his/her own coat, imagine having 11 more children to zip before you can head out the door. Every zipper counts. Thanks for helping us get to recess!

5. Our designated day for bank deposits is Thursday. We will stop by the bank on the way to the library on Thursdays when students have a deposit to make.

We found the missing library book! The library had misplaced it.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)

"Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide." - Napoleon Bonaparte