

Dear Parents,

We will have our first substitute in our class tomorrow. I will be at my father's funeral. My father passed away Tuesday night. During some of the saddest days of my life, my students made me smile and laugh and we had two great days. I could not have asked for a more loving support group. Kudos to all your children!! Just one more example of what we teach here at Plato. Every child has a voice and does make a difference!

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We each decorated an ornament or two to help decorate our Plato tree at the Des Plaines Tree Lighting Ceremony. See the Office Notes for details. One of our classmates won the Mayor's Coloring Contest and will be riding with Santa on the fire engine. If you cannot make it tonight feel free to stop by over the next few weeks and check out all the trees.

2. On Tuesday we visited the National Hellenic Museum. We were able to see and touch an entire tree trunk that had been petrified. This is a new concept for our class. We will revisit this throughout the year.

3. We are knee deep so far in our newest novel study, *Dark Day in the Deep Sea* by Mary Pope Osborne. We are working hard at increasing our visualization skills. The more your child talks about the books we read the stronger his/her visualization skills. Every time your child talks to you about books we read it is strengthening visualization skills. Talk about how a book relates to something that happened in your life. Talk about how a book relates to another book you have read. Talk about how a book relates to something happening in the world around us. We drew the beach, treehouse, and ship from chapter two. How did Jack and Annie know that the 3 men were not pirates? Why did Jack and Annie think they were pirates at first? Why are the men on the island? Have you ever been to a beach when something strange happened? What problems do you think they are going to encounter?

4. The students are already counting the hours until Christmas. That's right, the hours! We noticed a pattern as we made our chart of 24 hours plus 24 hours, etc... We have found a really useful reason to count by 2's. Think of a few more useful places to count by 2's. Encourage your child to share it with the class. We all learn from each other. There are numerous songs posted on YouTube to help count by 2's to music. Pick your favorite!

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.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape