

Happy Friday Parents!

We kicked off this week with a new and exciting literacy activity we will be doing everyday until break. I started reading the book "The Giraffe, and the Pelly, and Me by Roald Dahl to the class! Each day, just after morning meeting, we read a "chapter" (5-6 pages) and afterwards your child draws a picture to describe and summarize what we just read. This is something I encourage you all to do during break as well. It does not have to be a chapter book, but if it is a picture book make sure to not show the pictures. We already know reading to your child everyday is extremely important and by doing this fun, easy, and quick activity, your child must use their imagination and creativity to show what they have comprehended and taken away from the story.

After visiting our tree last week, we came to the conclusion that we certainly cannot keep all those leaves we picked in October on our tree in the classroom. The class began to discuss what we should do to make our tree mimic the tree we visit in the neighborhood. They were pretty eager to take down the leaves and make it more "wintery". In fact, we only left a few up and then it looked "NAKED!"

Our pajama drive is still going strong and we're close to our new goal! We want to collect a total of 50 pajamas to donate to children in shelters and Scholastic will match each pair with a book. On Tuesday, we brought in our box and got to counting! First, we had to strategize HOW we were going to count. By ones? By fives? Do we categorize and sort them into groups based off their characteristics? Should we divide them between partners or groups? Ultimately, the final decision voted by your children was to count them as a whole class and count by ones. Our final tally? 34! The drive ends next Wednesday, December 13.

Because we are exploring Arctic animals, we did a really fun activity about solids, liquids, and gases. After talking a little bit about different forms of matter, we wanted to do an experiment and see what would happen to some solids after putting them in a liquid and turning that liquid into a solid as well! The class went on a scavenger hunt in our room to find an item that may possibly be waterproof. We then put that into a cup and filled the cup with water before placing them in the freezer. Monday morning we will be "digging" them out! Will we use salt? Chisels? Good ol' time and just wait? We shall see!

Reminders:

- As long as the feels like weather is above 25 degrees fahrenheit, we will be going outside for our full recess time. Please make sure you send your child with appropriate winter gear. Feel free to leave a pair of gym shoes at school and send your child with their boots and he/she can change into them upon arrival.
- PAJAMA DRIVE! Last day to donate is next Wednesday-please pass along to anyone and everyone! Thank you to everybody who donated and helping us reach our goal! Without your constant partnership, it would not have been possible.
- Class grab-bag: We are still in need of books such as Rosie Revere, Engineer, Iggys Peck, Architect, any Eric Carle books. Preferably hardcover please or pillows such as these https://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/product/micro-mink-backrest-pillow/3284097?skuId=45754586&mcid=PS_googlepla_nonbrand_homedecor_online&product_id=45754586&adtype=pla&product_channel=online&adpos=1o5&creative=224230473969&device=c&matchtype=&network=g&mrkgadid=3140840175&mrkgcl=609&rkg_id=h-56219155229da0e69668a61d49b45452_t-1512483306&gclid=CjwKCAiApJnRBRBIEiwAPTgmxlVNR39sTjCj7tL1buuqVjoqQhYkx_NcPfq3DnsnKuTqiWRJB4_x9RoCCqAQAvD_BwE We will be opening our new gifts on the last day before break (December 21). Feel free to bring your wrapped gift in anytime before if you'd like! Also, remind your child that their gift is a SURPRISE and to try to keep it a secret until then! I know it's hard!
- Don't forget to use smile.amazon.com and enter Plato Academy when doing any online shopping to help benefit our school!

Have a great weekend and I hope I see you tonight!

-Ms. Anna