

# **PLATO ACADEMY PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER JANUARY 19, 2017**

The first two weeks of the New Year have been fun and busy! Some of us didn't get the chance or fell asleep so we had our very own New Year's countdown, complete with balloon drop! We flipped the calendar to January and found out that the year changed, too.

We started a story exploration on *The Gingerbread Man*. We found all different versions of the story at the library. Some of them were gingerbread cookies as the main character, and some of them were other foods who were on the run, ie. *The Runaway Wok*, *The Runaway Tortilla*, *Senorita Gordita*, and *You Can't Catch Me*. Some of them involved a sly fox, while others had different characters who tried to outwit the running food. We baked a gingerbread cookie and he ultimately ran away from us! The class spent two days searching the school for him. The students made lost posters and stopped in every classroom to find out if he had been spotted. Their excitement flowed out of our room and throughout the school. He was found right back in our room. Please stop by the wall outside of our room to see the clues and read some of the quotes and responses from the students. This was a great activity to get their minds thinking again after a long break. We (teachers) loved every minute of it!

In the second week, we read *The Runaway Tortilla* and made quesadillas. Luckily, none of them escaped! The students are also learning to dramatize their favorite songs and stories. *Gingerbread man* and *girl stick* puppets were made and we have a puppet theatre for endless performances.

Our next story exploration is *The Three Little Pigs*. We found a book, *The Three Pigs* and a *Gingerbread Man* to intro into the pigs. The class watched the short Disney film, *Silly Symphonies... The Three Pigs*, during snack time at the end of the week and are ready to delve into the story.

We finally had snow to play in during recess and thank goodness the temperatures have been good for the most part. It takes quite awhile to get all of our outer clothes on especially with 14 kiddos all needing assistance at one point or another.

We have a system and it helps them with independence skills. So now you know, most of them can take off their shoes, put on snow pants correctly, put on boots, scarves, hats, and jackets with minimal assistance. Gloves and mittens go on last (that's always an argument with one or another) so that they have hands to do all of the previous skills. Sometimes it takes longer to get ready than the time we can spend outside but it's well worth it! When we come in, there is another sequence that takes less time but still develops independence.

Note: all wet snow pants and gloves/mittens will usually be in the hallway at pickup time.

But... the snow was not just outside. We brought it indoors to our water table. One day we painted it in various ways, another day we just played with it. Ms. Soraya added carrots, googly eyes, and plastic caps to see what would happen. As teachers, we thought they would start building snowmen. But nope! They made a big carrot and googly eye cake! Who knew? Served us right for trying to plan their play! 😊

We will continue to explore stories, especially traditional fairy tales, and see where that takes us! We hope to continue our science explorations and experiments and build upon our knowledge.

- Please check and update your child's extra clothes box at the bottom of the cubby. Each student should have **two FULL** (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) changes ready. This is important. Even if your child does well with going to the bathroom, other things happen that require changing clothes.

Please, please, please... Make sure that your child has eaten breakfast before coming to school. It is important that they are energized for the morning. They exercise their bodies and brains before lunch at 11:20. That is a long time to go without nurturing our bodies. We do not have the accommodations for students to eat or finish breakfast in the classroom.

**\*\* Students are responsible for any item they bring to school. There is always a chance that an item gets lost or damaged.**

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Texting is best since we can usually reply quicker.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's life!

Ciao!

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