

PLATO ACADEMY PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER JANUARY 26, 2017

CELEBRATE NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK!

Plato Academy supports School Choice Week, a week that focuses on the fact that all families should have a choice where their children attend school and to find ways for that to happen. We are thrilled to be a part of Plato Academy which gives each and every student the ability to direct his/her own education path and be successful in everything she/he does. Please visit Plato's Facebook page to see videos and pictures of the fun we had this past week!

****Each student was given a yellow scarf. Please put it in a safe place to use next year.**

This week, the students explored wind and air with the use of a fan. They are testing to see what objects around the classroom will float up into the air by placing them onto a fan tunnel with a net over the top to prohibit objects from falling into the fan. So far...

Items that float: feathers, pom pon balls (small only), cotton balls, and packing peanuts.

Items that don't float: rocks, cars, big pom pon balls, ping pong balls, golf balls, play food, wooden trains, crayons, markers, and scissors.

As you will see in the Shutterfly photos, buckets and baskets, and several types of rope are set up in the classroom. The students are exploring and trying them out. They have found they can put objects into the baskets and buckets and pull the rope to make it go up. This is a basic form of the pulley, a simple machine. We will continue exploring pulleys and other simple machines (wheel/axle, lever, incline) in the next couple of months to see how they can make our work easier.

Ms. Soraya and the students built a marble run by using paper towel rolls and a few other materials. It is another intriguing addition to our classroom!

The students helped decorate poster boards for our service project that will start at the beginning of February. Watch for a separate email and the Parent Notes for more information.

Check out the photos on Shutterfly of the skyline and our height measurements! That is how much the students have grown in four months!

The class has been using the gingerbread man and girl puppets that they made to put on performances for each other using the puppet theatre in the room. We also began reading and dramatizing the Three Little Pigs. Once again, we have different versions of the story which include the story told by the big bad wolf! We are learning about parts of a story, ie. character, beginning, end, middle, and plot. On Thursday, we got a rare chance to go to open gym all together and brought the mats from our classroom. Along with the puzzle mats in the gym, the students built houses like the three pigs. Some worked alone and some worked together to find that they could make a bigger house with all of their mats put together. The teachers were the big bad wolves and huffed and puffed and tried to blow down the houses. NO LUCK! We will continue dramatize the stories that we read.

Please continue to leave snow pants and boots at school during the week. Even though there is no snow, the parks are very muddy and the outer clothes will help to keep the kids cleaner.

Make sure that you are double checking the ingredient lists AND any other information on the labels of your child's food. We just learned that Quaker chewy granola bars have the notice... **May contain trace amounts of peanuts and tree nuts.** REMEMBER... even though it says organic, it may contain trace amounts of these allergens. Thank you for helping keep our school safe for ALL students!

Are you going to **Apokriatiko Glendi** on Sunday, February 18th? You may be asking... **What is Apokriatiko Glendi?** It is a party! More specifically, it is our big fundraiser for the school. There will be food, music, dancing, singing, a clown with face painting, and costumes! There will also be raffles and baskets to win! We don't have school that Monday so there is no excuse! Please check out the Parent Notes from this week for more information. We hope to see everyone there!

Lastly... our bank deposit day of the week is Thursday and we usually go after lunch before recess. If your child has an account set up, please send money in a Ziploc bag to school no later than Thursday morning. We work together to count the money and we fill out the deposit slips. Always look for a receipt in the bag in their backpacks after school. The account balance is printed on it. If your child does not have a savings account and you are interested, the forms are on the credenza in front of the office. When filling it out, your child is the primary account and the parent is secondary. Then return it to Maria and she will set it up with the bank and it will take a few days. It's easy! And we are learning how to successfully interact with people in our community.

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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