

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We spent some time looking forward to the New Year. Check out our calendar in the hall across from the bathrooms. We are adding to it each week as new and exciting events happen. Find the months when you have special family celebrations or vacations planned.

2. On Tuesday we continued celebrating the New Years with vasilopita cake and writing New Year resolutions in our journals. Ask your child about his/her resolution and discuss steps that can be made to help ensure success. We revisited and reflected on our resolutions on Thursday. So far, so good!

3. With all the talk of New Years and midnight celebrations we have been more interested in the clock this week. Plus our classroom has a new interactive learning clock. It is fun to see students checking the play clock and their watches and comparing them to our classroom clock. If your child is just starting to learn to tell time, start with making a game out of catching the clock the minute it changes to a new hour. (5:00 = Give high fives, 6:00 = Jump up and down 6 times, 7:00 = 7 hugs, 8:00 = Eat something so you can say, "I ate at eight." and "I feel fine at 9!") Once your child masters the hours move to half past each hour. Keep stepping up until you are asking, "How much time do we have before _____?" Review the time related articles in the Time for Kids magazine that came home on Tuesday.

4. We observed our underwater museums we created before break and discovered some interesting developments. We do not have any coral growing but we do have a new animal in one of them!

5. We are still working toward our goal of going out to eat lunch at Via Roma. We do not have a date set yet. There will be plenty of notice before we go. Once we have mastered counting our money and reading the menus we will set a date. (late February or March). Next time you are at a restaurant, try to give your child extra time to read the menu and make a decision all by himself/herself. We have a new math game called LeftCenterRight which we tweaked to incorporated counting money. If any of you would like to borrow one of our classroom games for a night or a weekend, just let me know.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)

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