

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We are starting a new novel study, ***Snow Treasure*** by Marie McSwigan. This story is based on an actual happening. On June 28, 1940, a Norwegian freighter reached Baltimore with a cargo of gold bullion worth 9 million. When the captain asked for a police escort while unloading the bullion, a strange story came to light. The gold, it was learned had been slipped past Nazi sentries by Norwegian children who pulled it on their sleds to a freighter hidden in one of the many fjords of Norway's coast. That no harm might come to the brave children nor to others of this recent little "Gold Rush," the location of the fjord was not disclosed and details were purposely omitted.

Hopefully we will get some snow to go along with our story. Ask your child how the Norwegian children play in the snow. We enjoyed viewing some beautiful pictures of the Norwegian fjords. Check out our pictures of Norway next to the office door. We will be introduced to many new vocabulary words during our story. It is important that the students have lots of chances to use their new words so ask about our story every night. We are playing some games with our new vocabulary words. So far we have: Norway, fjords, determined, bond, and tons.

2. We continue to visit the library every Thursday morning. Our time at the library continues to lengthen each week as the students find a spot in the library to sit down and share their books with each other. Ask them to tell you the stories they have read from the library. Ask them what books they hope to get next week. Ask them if anyone found a book that became a class favorite. Going to the library is like going to a candy store! Our goal is for the students to bring books to you every night and beg you to read with them. I have many students asking me to read with them throughout the day. I try so hard to say, "Yes" every time. It breaks my heart when I have to say, "Right after lunch" or "You will be next." Let's not only tell the students how important reading is but let's show them by saying "YES" to reading every night.

3. We are looking over our menus from Via Roma. I am sending home copies of the menu next week. Read it over with your child and have your child circle 2 or 3 of their top choices. We will plan on going Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 am. I will collect the money the week before. Please remember to include enough to cover tip. We will keep each student's money in a marked Ziplock bag. As you look over the menu be sure to grab the teachable moments of figuring out how much money will be needed. This outing may look like just a fun thing to do in order to build bonds or friendship. It is that and so much more.

4. Here is a class list of names. These can be used if your child wants to bring in Valentine cards. Valentines cards are a perfect example of a real life reason to read and write. All the cards should be made out by the students. I am giving the list a little early so your child will not have to do all the writing in one night.

Soti
Nathan
Janki
Aarya
Nikola
Konstantino
Wyatt
Dante
Mia
Maggie
Sophia
Luke
Mrs. Teresa

5. Thursday morning the Hellenic Museum presented a lesson and art activity on artifacts. The children came home with a clay bowl which is a model of some of the real ancient Greek artifacts the students were able to investigate. We added the word 'artifact' to our vocabulary game.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)