

PLATO ACADEMY PRE-KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2, 2017

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO TAYLOR AND MATEO!!

What can we do now? Have you heard this before? We have... multiplied by 14! ☺ With winter upon us and less time to be outdoors, it becomes a daily mantra. But remember, at these ages attention spans vary wildly and from moment to moment and activity to activity. More than once we have put away the materials for an activity because WE thought they were finished only to have someone ask for them the next day, week, or even month. We do our best to bring those activities back to the classroom. Sometimes they aren't readily available and we tell the students so. Remember, we are working on raising living, breathing, functional little people and one thing we learn in life is that we can't always get what we want, when we want it; a tough concept for 3, 4, and 5 year olds, much less 20, 30, and 40 year olds! LOL!

Back to indoor activities... We introduced some new ones this week. The students were painting on plastic wrap wrapped around the legs of upside down small tables. This provides a different surface and angle to apply paint and once they finished, a piece of paper was placed over the painting and a print was made. What you will see when you look at the photos on Shutterfly is that once we modeled the steps for the activity; put on paint shirt, dispense paint into a palette tray, and paint, they participated in this activity independently! Sure, there was confusion at times but more often than not, another classmate helped them along or gave reminders. By the end of the week, they were making the prints without the teachers' assistance. We witnessed students returning over and over to make another print. All we had to do was keep up with washing out the trays and brushes. ☺ Another version of this type of painting was at the PVC chart stand where students faced each other to paint. It hasn't been as popular but we will keep it available.

The cold weather gives us a chance to try new science activities, whether they are hands-on experiments or laid back observational experiments. We will be doing

more of these with our extra indoor recess time. And please let us know if your child comes home and wants to do some of the same activities that they do in school. That is awesome for two big reasons... they want to share and extend what they did at school and **THEY ARE TELLING YOU WHAT THEY DID AT SCHOOL!** Often parents come to us to say that their children just say, "nothing" or "play" when asked what they did at school which is very typical of all ages. By doing the same activities at home, you are acknowledging them and what they tell you. So, we are here if you want to know more about our activities.

VALENTINES DAY... On Feb. 14th our school celebrates! There will be a 'breakfast for lunch' lunch for all students; pancakes, sausage and/or bacon, veggie, and fruit. It will be yummy! Don't forget to send snack for the afternoon. It is also Pajama Day! We are wearing them all day long! No slippers, please but the students can bring a small stuffed animal for the day.

We will have a valentine exchange party in the afternoon that day. If your child wants to bring valentines for his/her classmates, please only have them write their name in the 'from' area. This will make it easier for them to distribute to all on that day. Think about it, 14 kiddos asking 2 teachers, "Who is this?" 13 times! We prefer no edible treats but if you really have to, check all labels for tree nuts, peanuts, and sesame seeds. Please check the list on Snack Safe guide for options: <https://snacksafely.com/safe-snack-guide/>.

We are asking for you to send a box to school. It can be any small of any kind. The students will decorate them to hold their valentines to bring home. Please send to school by this Friday, Feb. 9th for decorating.

Thank you to Mateo's parents who came by on his birthday to read one of his favorite stories!

Our class service project... We are collecting personal care items and gently used toys for Journey's: A Road Home. They help people who are homeless or in jeopardy of becoming homeless. They serve the northwest suburbs including an emergency shelter here in Des Plaines. Please see the attachment on the email.

Please continue to leave snow pants and boots at school during the week. When the temperature allows, we will go out in the snow.

Toys from home... Lately students have been bringing really small, almost tiny, toys from home. Please remind your children that they are responsible for them. Large toys should be kept at home.

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!

Did you RSVP to [Apokriatiko Glendi](#) on Sunday, February 18th? It will be fun!

Bank deposit day is Thursday!

Students must have tennis/gym shoes for wearing in school. Boots do not allow for them to run, jump, and play, especially in the gym which they go to every day of the week.

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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