

Plato Academy- Room 9

Classroom Journal: **Valentine's Day, Math Olympics, Writhing around!**

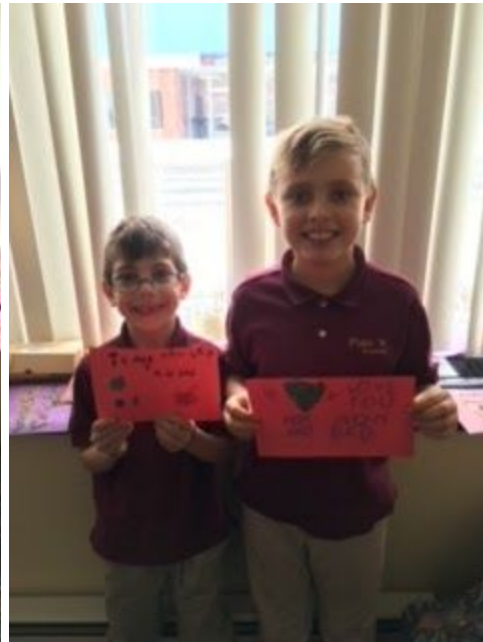
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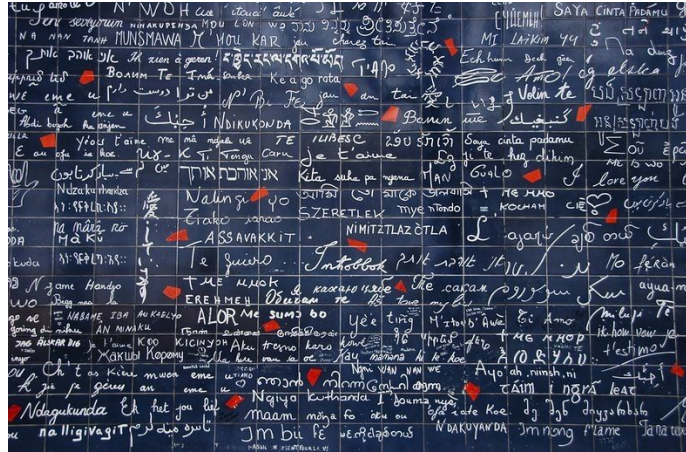
In case you haven't heard the news, our Eiffel Tower cardboard pieces were missing Monday morning! After a classroom meeting we decided to solve the issue by putting up a "DO NOT TOUCH" sign. We have already gathered enough cardboard that has already been cut according to our dimensions, and we have officially started painting our pieces!



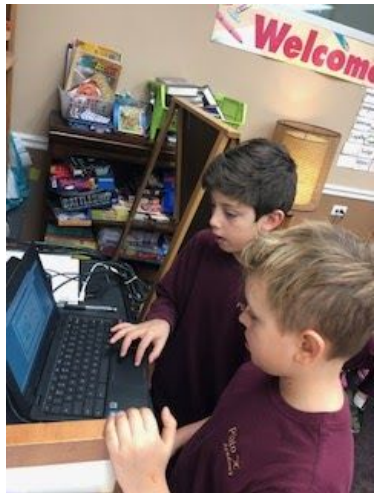
In lieu of Valentine's Day and our fabulously coincidental exploration of Paris, the city of love, we visited "la mur des je'taime" or "the wall of love" and "Ponts des Arts". The wall of love was created by Frederic Baron when he asked his brothers (and later foreign neighbors to write words of love. This wall expanded to over 311 languages expressing love, or "i love you". The

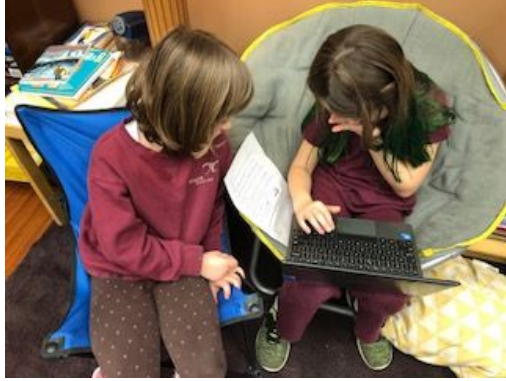
Ponts des Arts is the narrowest bridge in Paris over the Siene River (referenced in Hugo!) where loved ones “lock their love” and throw the key into the river. We read the oldest Valentine by Charles duke of Orleans and the two legends of Saint Valentine himself, ask your child about one of the legends or myths, it is not just a hallmark holiday after all! PS We maybe have eaten a few chocolates too ;)





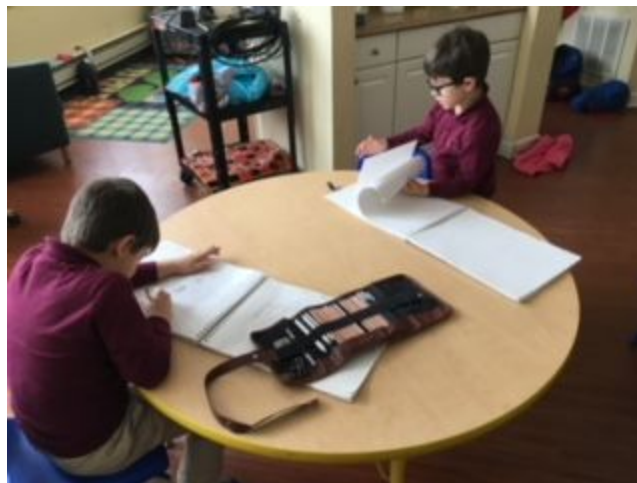
We are hosting our very own Plato Academy Room 9 (also Ms. Teresa's class) "Math Olympics" starting February 21st to the 28th through the matific website. The children practiced logging in and doing "warm ups" at www.matific.com. They each received their own username and password and I encourage all to practice and do at home!! This is a national competition however Ms. Teresa and I are portraying it as a fun "olympics". We will not be comparing percentages of individual children just as a classroom as a whole; just some fun, math-revolving games! Our simple machine experiment and challenge was to create a rickshaw with a ruler, tape, and a wooden spool. As our previous experiments the children followed a procedure to put the product together and then follow up with conclusion/result questions from the "experiment card". Was it easier to push the washers with the rickshaw? Why?





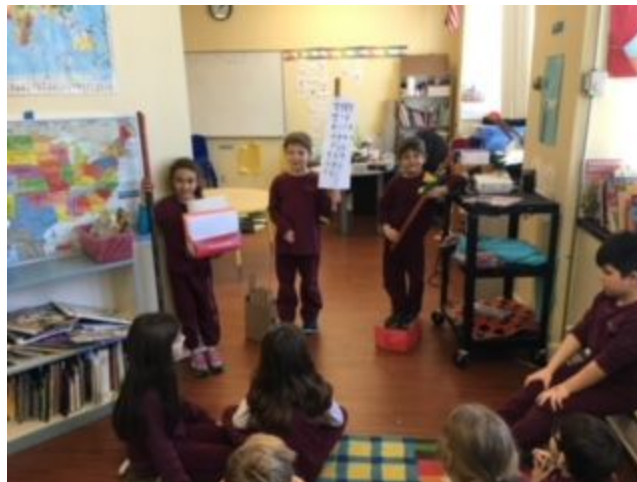


We have just two more chapters left of Hugo!! The children were left on their toes as Hugo gets captured by the Inspector- he was writhing around as then we began to do together. They continue working hard and diligently on their sketches, adding more and more detail with each chapter. The children spend almost an hour putting together each sketch and sometimes over the course of a few days; paying attention to specific detail in their cross-sketching and captions. The librarian sent us a Georges Melies documentary that we started this week- he was quite the magician! Excited to meet our second artist next week.... Who will it be? Maybe the Lumiere Brothers? Afterall, Georges Melies says they created the movies!!



This week we also finished book three in “The Story of Pawn” series; the students are really invested in the characters and story, and can’t wait to start reading book four! We also continued to play chess, and used the game as a method of practicing adding, subtracting, and multiplying. By using the point system, students kept track of their scores as they played. We even started learning basic chess opening strategies and defenses!

Two groups presented their TIME articles this week. One group presented the importance of courage in the context of segregation, Little Rock 9, and Ruby Bridges. Because of courageous people we continue to understand meaning of kindness and now courage. Another group presented Chinese New Year with crafts, black and red bracelets, and dragons. It is the year of the dog, HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!



Have a great 3 day weekend!

Warmly,
Ms. Bia and Mr. Foti