

January 26, 2018

Plato Academy- Room 9

Classroom Journal: **“Safety Last”, Best of Buster Keaton, and “how many 10’s?”**

Our new vocabulary words were piling up and weren't organized alphabetically! We get so distracted reading sometimes we forget to add the words to our word wall. On Tuesday morning, each child was given a vocabulary card at random and without talking had to somehow place all cards alphabetically. It was very tricky! They could tap a friend to scooch in between where they thought their word belonged however, if a friend didn't let you in maybe your word didn't belong there alphabetically?! Practicing alphabetical order, besides trying to look something up in the dictionary, allows the children to revisit the word they read and defined together and focus on the letters composing the word. It was fun! Did I mention our word wall looks like a bar graph? “S” words are most common on our word wall by 3 words do you think there are more “s” words than any other letter?



The children had some interesting math stories this week that allowed for applications of multiplication. Here's one: Brazil's tax code weighs "several tons." If it weighs 4 tons and you can carry 10 pounds on your back, how many kids like you would it take to carry the Brazil book? Reminder if needed: A ton equals 2,000 pounds. Yes you read correctly, "several tons" and it is also 6 ft 10 in tall AND 41,000 pages! We even saw a picture- it is HUGE! The children began solving by counting by 10's, one child suggested how long that was going to take and that what if we did it by 1,000. How many 10's are in 1,000? I extended on this problem to correlate with characters in our story. "There are no teachers or adults, you are the problem

solvers: If the mechanical man weighs 5 tons and each Plato student can carry 10 pounds on their back, how many Plato students will we need to carry the mechanical man?"

We started our simple machines exploration with a poster of what we already know/ what we want to learn on simple machines. Is a circuit board a simple machine because it causes the fan to air like Georges magic tricks in our story? Some children suggested no, because circuit boards are driven by electricity and machines are driven by gears and cogs. Is a clock a simple machine? This poster will be in our room so that the children throughout the exploration can revisit their original questions/knowledge and reflect on their individual growth.

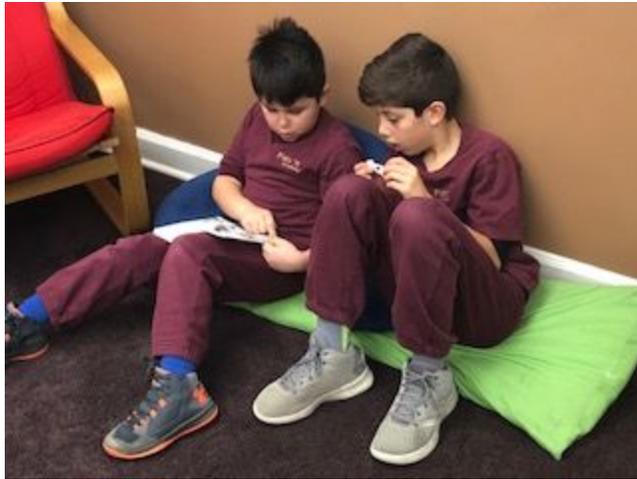
Speaking of Hugo and simple machines.... We just finished part one of our story! The mechanical man drew the moon face from "La Voyage Dans La Lune" (the silent film we saw before reading). Could this be why the author suggests to watch the silent film? Is Georges Melies Papa Georges?! Bursting with predictions, we are on our toes until Monday!! Hugo suggested Buster Keaton, "Safety Last", and a funny clock comic (Walt Disney actually). We watched all three. Silent movies are very different. They are shorter and a lot of pranks happen! Watching these silent films allows the children to really capture the story we are reading, the setting, and the world in general during that time period. It simply makes them more interested in researching and digging deeper into what they are reading.

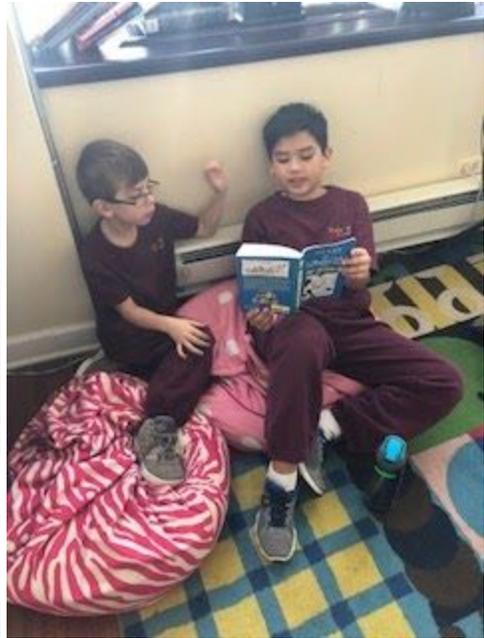




Today with our buddies we decided to read our favorite books in our classroom just to switch it up a bit. The children really enjoy buddy time with Ms. Dionysia's class and were excited to share some new library material with their buddies. Speaking of library, we can't wait to pick up our "research bag" on Monday- 1930's here we come!









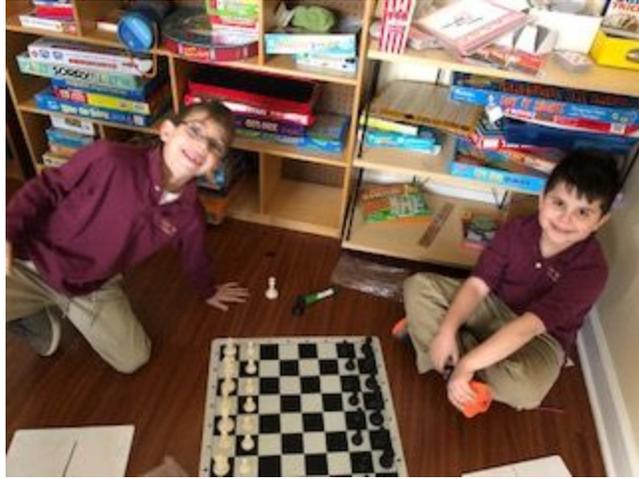
Meanwhile, this week we finished book one of Pawn and started book two. The students wrote in their journals about the themes developed over the course of the two books—teamwork, friendship, achieving common goals—and have become invested in reading about what comes next for the inhabitants of “Chess Land.”

After learning as a class the rules of the game, on Tuesday we incorporated chess into our math games; using our new classroom boards and pieces, as well as dry erase boards, the students paired off and played against each other, while adding up the points on the board (Queens are worth nine points, Rooks five, Knights three, Bishops three, Pawns one). This was also an opportunity to introduce the geometric shapes the pieces can create on the board.

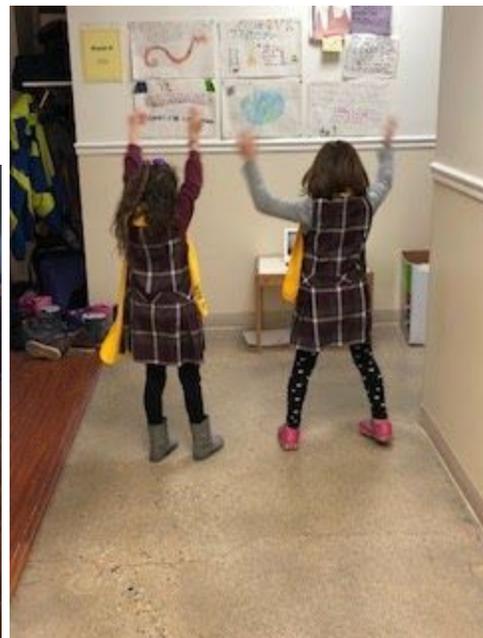
On Thursday we played a group game, wherein the class was grouped into Black and White teams. Using two boards, one displayed over our dry-erase board and one board on a table, the students each took turns making a move for their respective teams. By the game’s end, each student was able to use chess notation to say where they were moving each piece on the board.







**Room 9 Ambassador's of National School Choice week:**



Have a great weekend!

Warmly,  
Ms. Bia & Mr. Foti

