

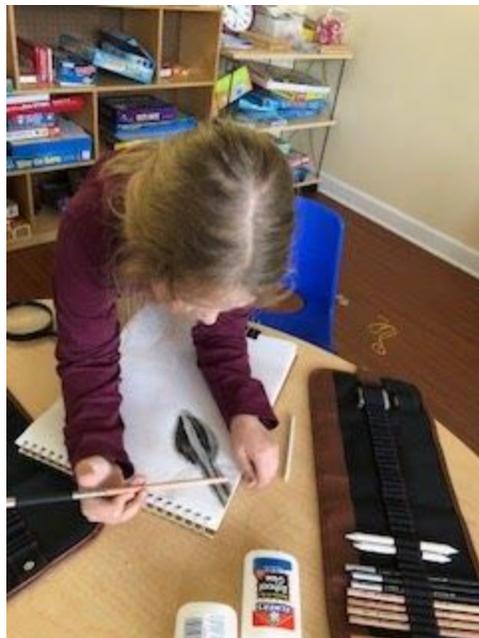
Plato Academy- Room 9

Classroom Journal- Sketching Blueprints & Grocery Lists!

2/10/2018

Dear Families,

This week the children began their blueprints and illustrations in their sketch pads. They will choose and complete renditions of one illustration of their choice from each chapter in our book. As in our previous illustrations, the children will caption their illustration except this time they are choosing an existing illustration and associating the importance the illustration holds in the context of the chapter. For example, one child drew the Eiffel Tower and skyline of Paris as seen in the book. Why is this important? What does it tell the reader? It foreshadows the setting of the book; using illustrations to tell a lot of the story. "The Invention of Hugo Cabret" is rich in illustrations and they hold high importance to the story because they also tell part of the story without words. In addition to their chapter illustrations, the children began their blueprints of our first structure (for the mural): the Eiffel Tower. How tall is it? What shape is the base? Why is the architecture of the Eiffel Tower important? Did you know that it tilts when it's hot outside? How tall is our ceiling? Since our Eiffel Tower can't be 1,063 ft. tall how many of our Eiffel Towers will it take to be as tall as the real Eiffel Tower? We had to convert to feet because our yard stick is in inches. How many feet is 36 inches if 12 inches is 1 foot? Our Eiffel Tower will be 8 ft and 8 inches or 104 inches; 12 inches didn't really go in evenly into 104 so we had some remaining inches -perfect for our antenna on top! They are accountable for blueprints for their automaton as well. How long will the torso be? Is the head going to be smaller or bigger than the torso? Organically, a lot of measuring and division is required because the cardboard boxes need to be divided equally. For the Eiffel Tower, the measurements are set and the children began dividing and cutting accordingly to their blueprints and measurements!



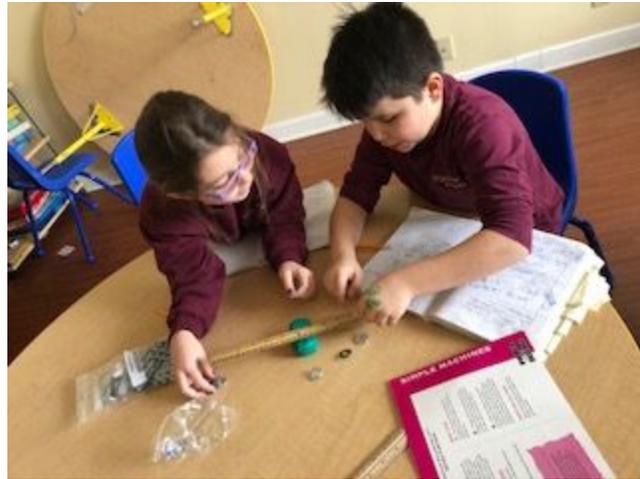


Hugo decides to dig deeper into Georges Melies is life. Why is he running a toy store if he was a famous film-maker? He decides to go to the Film Academy in Paris and research. There, he is drawn to a huge painting of Prometheus. He didn't know anything about Prometheus until Isabelle read him the Greek myth. The children really enjoyed the myth and by projecting the picture they were able to visualize the story of Prometheus and their own comparisons. Like Prometheus, Georges Melies brought "light (fire)" to people by making the first movies. What did people do if they didn't have movies? They went to magic shows and even the circus. It was like magic! People were amazed so much that when they saw "Arrival of a Train" they fainted because they thought the train was really coming at them! We watched the

short silent film and the children even decided to pretend as if it was their first movie, some even “fainted”.



Our simple machine exploration continues this week with a different experiment, focussing on quantity, weight, and balance. If there are 9 washers and the “see-saw” balances what does it mean about the weight of the 5 washers vs the weight of the 4 washers? This experiment challenged the familiar concept of quantity vs weight; the seesaw balanced because the 5 washers used for one side amount to the same weight as the 4 washers on the other side- even though 5 is more than 4. The children were able to manipulate the washers and screws to find balancing points with different quantities. What does it mean about weight and balance? “Steelworks” was donated to our classroom this week, and the pieces are so intricate and quite challenging to our fine motor skills! The fact that Hugo does similar work in the “Jouets” shop is just a special bonus!



Because Ms. Leslie's class is collecting newspapers for rescue animals, before we donated our jewel ads we decided to make grocery lists first! The challenge was grocery lists with \$20. The children had to add up the different prices of items and sometimes that resulted in taking items out of their "cart". If their total was under \$20 (most were because nothing amounted to exactly \$20), how much change would the cashier give back? Instead of subtracting what if we mentally counted up? They really enjoyed grocery shopping on their own!



In chess the children continue to practice collaborative game together as well as individual games. They practice exit slips for Pawn on Tuesdays and Thursdays, reflecting on the literacy portion of the unit.



Warmly,
Ms. Bia and Mr. Foti