

Plato Academy: Room 9

Week of November 27

Classroom Journal: Junior Archaeologist

This week in *Wonder* we read about Jack Will and looked back on our thoughts that he betrayed August. In reading Jack Will's chapter we saw the incident of "betrayal" from his perspective and realized that he spoke about Auggie to Julian only because he didn't know that it was in fact Auggie wearing the "scream" costume. During our lit circles with Ms. Alex's class we engaged in discourse as well as wrote in the "Wonder" journals about the December precept and Jack Will's poem (each character has a chapter and their chapter comes with a quote).

December precept: "Fortune favors the bold." - Virgil

Jack Will's poem: "**Now here is my secret. It is very simple. It is only with one's heart that one can see clearly. What is essential is invisible to the eye.**" - Antoine de Saint- Exupéry, *Little Prince*

What does bold mean? How about fortune? Why do you think the author talks about being "bold" in Jack's chapter? How can "one" see with their heart? What is in your heart? These are questions that were asked during our discourse (among others) and some of the answers were that bold means brave and fortune sounds like future, and a fortune cookie tells you your future. So, be brave like Jack Will and stick up to the "cool" and "popular" guys. Our heart has courage, love, excitement, parents, families, siblings, students, and these things are essential (we added to our word wall, it means necessary) and because we can't see love or courage they are "invisible" but still necessary. The children talked about Jack Will for 30 minutes with each other and the two teachers in the room. They got in depth, debated, and really broke down the text in defining Jack Will's character and how it shifts during his chapter. These are important and essential skills in comprehension and in using text to validate thoughts/answers.

The "Allowance" game has taken over our classroom! It is a great game where children practice "earning" and "spending" money but can also buy a lemonade stand and collect interest every time someone passes (sort of like Monopoly). Our daily number stories continue and in fact today was one about the torch of the statue of liberty. Did you know that ½ oz of gold could cover 100 square feet (about a bedroom); in case your child starts measuring the square feet I challenged them to so that we can figure out how much gold it would take to cover their bedroom! Speaking of Statue of Liberty, our challenge with Ms. Dionysia's class was to figure out the date on the tablet the statue holds: JULY IV MDCCLXXVI. What does America's Independence Day have to do with immigrants? Some children researched and discovered that Americans were "kind of like immigrants and got free from England like the immigrants that came to

America and saw the statue". The tablet is a day of freedom for the American people and the Statue of Liberty was built to welcome immigrants to freedom.

Our field trip to the Hellenic Museum was a great experience. The children each got to make their own clay pots using fine motor skills to make a base and 3 coils. They realized it was hard work! How did the Ancient Greeks make them so big?! Then we connected our pottery artifact to splitting up to smaller groups and discovering the 5 "W's" of different artifacts and presenting them to the rest of the class. It truly was an amazing experience and I encourage all of our families to take advantage of the free admission (if it didn't make it home I do have some extra on my desk, just let me know).

Enjoy all of our pictures!

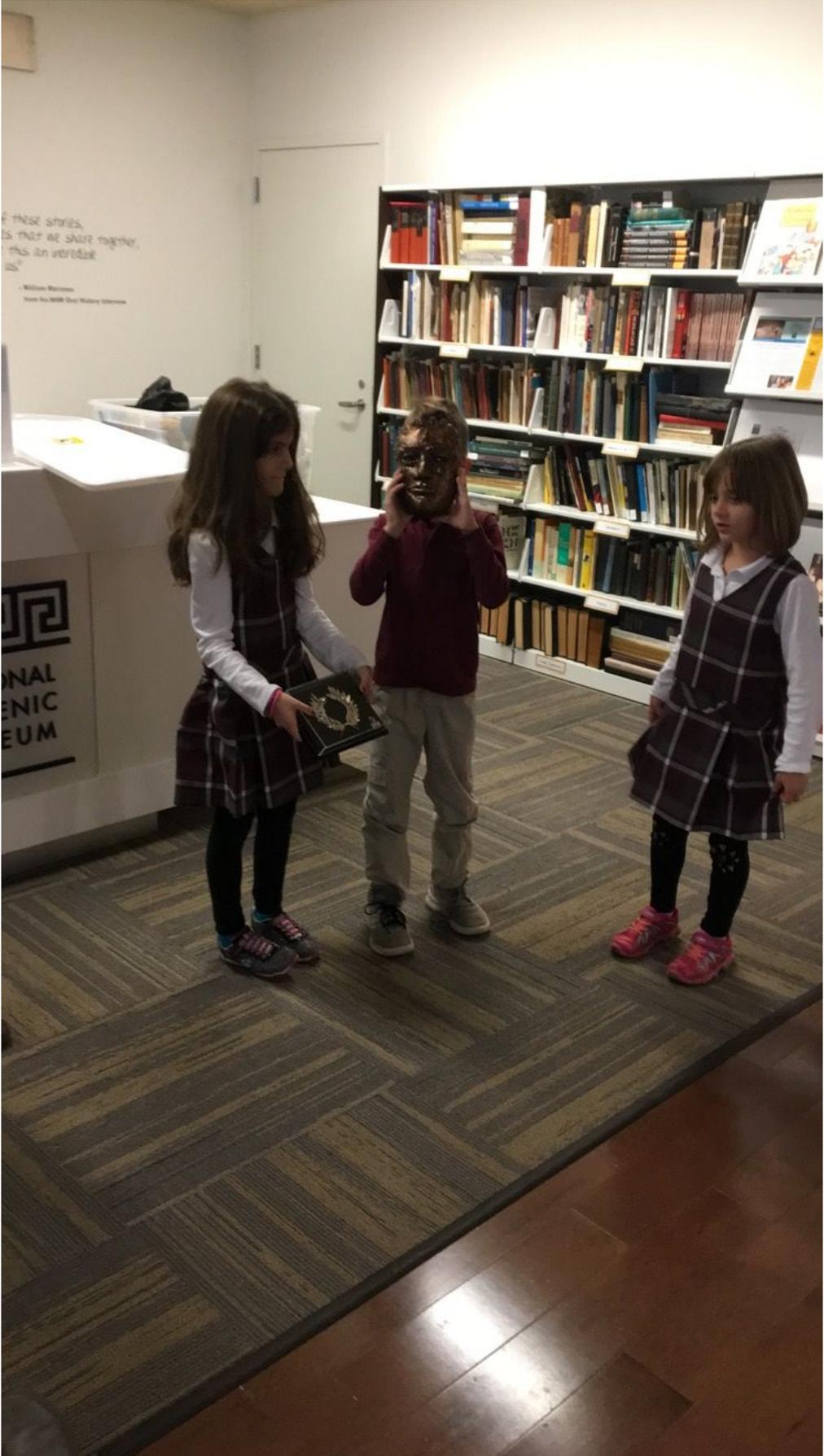
PS The children have been practicing diligently every day for the Winter Program and are so excited to perform for their families!

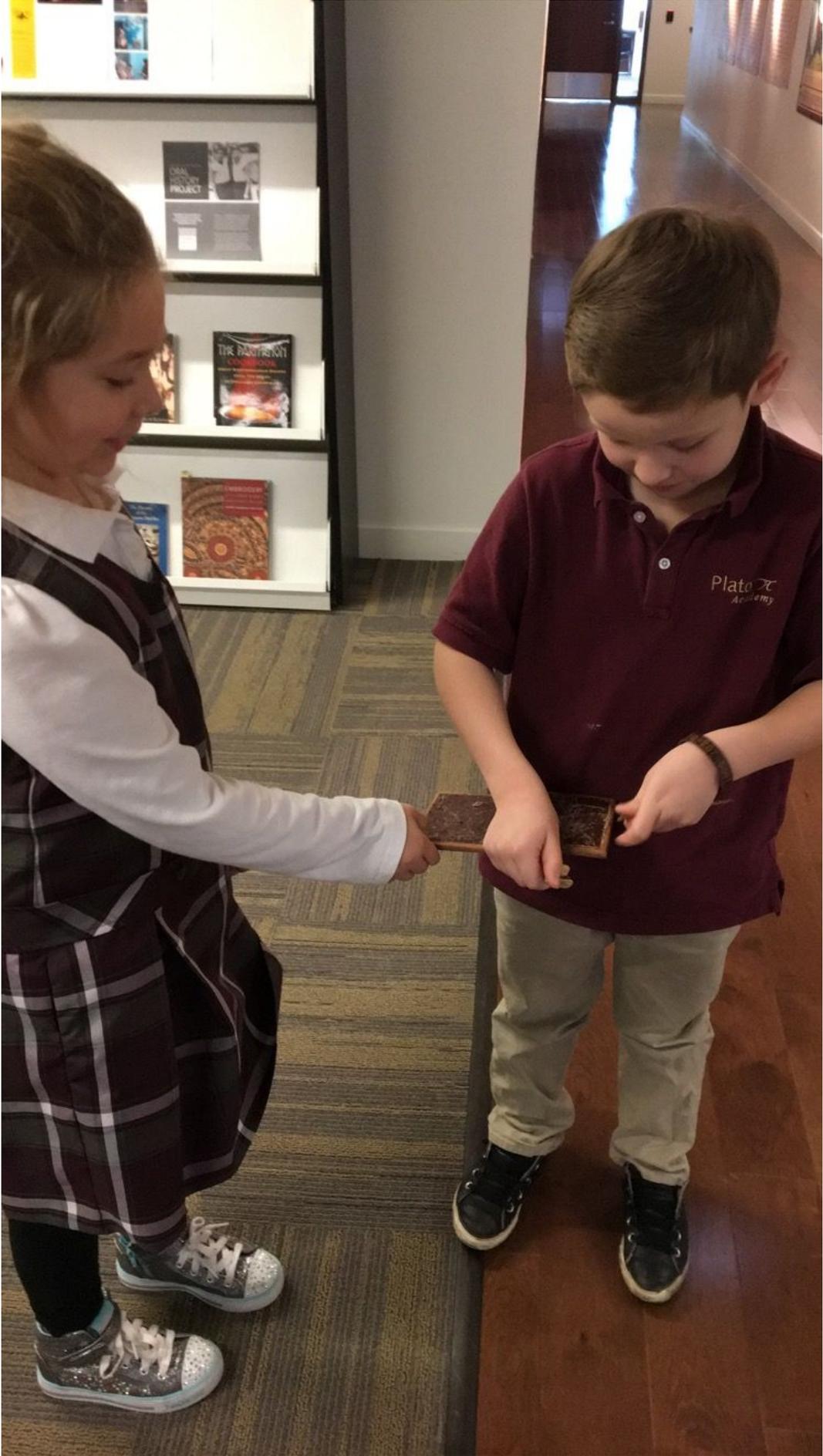
Have a great weekend,
Ms. Bia and Mr. Foti



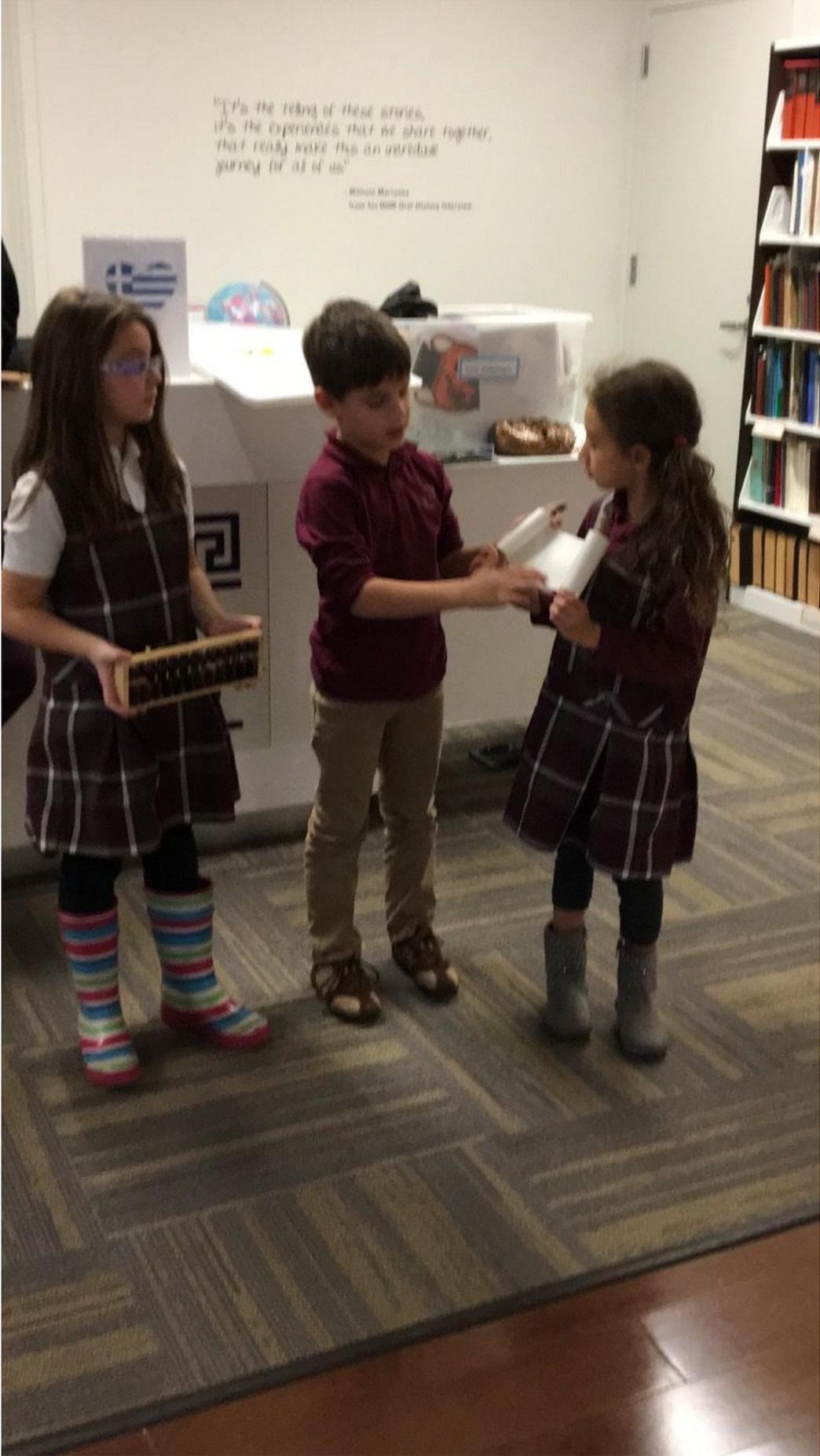


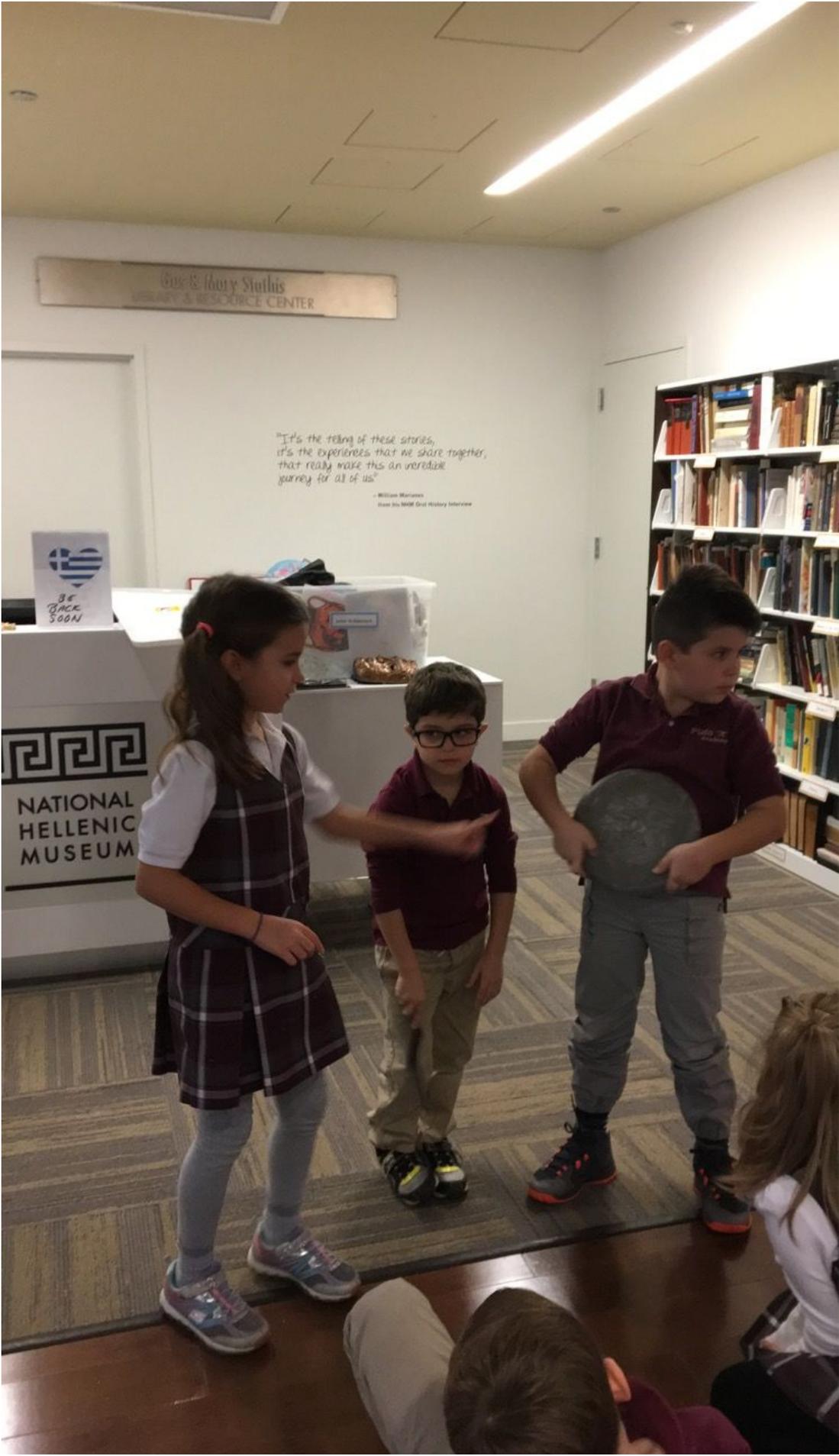












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"It's the telling of these stories,
it's the experiences that we share together,
that really make this an incredible
journey for all of us"

William Marlowe
from his NPR Oral History interview

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