

Plato Academy: Room 9

Classroom Journal 11/3/2017: **Apple Pies and 5 minutes to 6..**

Dear Families,

As you may already know, we made apple pie today in Room 9! It is actually a bit more of an “apple crisp” because we didn’t use soft pie crust but rather, crunch graham crackers. Thank you to the Matsas family for donating all of the ingredients for our delicious Friday treat! The children each were able to wash, peel, core, and cut their own apple. They found the peeling to be a bit tricky and one child suggest tomatoes were definitely easier to peel than apples. Some assistance and guiding was needed for the peeling part but the children were all able to try their best. They each received 6 graham crackers to mash up in their own zip lock bag and then added a buttery spread to mix for the crumbs to stick together. After the graham crackers were ready and their apples were cored, peeled, and sliced, the children added 2 tablespoons of brown sugar and 5 dashes of cinnamon (some even used extra cinnamon on top); the ingredients were placed in individual tins and then popped in the oven. We even had extra to make a pie for the teachers! This experience allowed the children to work cooperatively when preparing the pies together and used language to explain cause and effect. “If I put more cinnamon will it be sweeter?” Some children did not want it too sweet. The children exercised their self-help skills and fine motor skills. They practiced cleaning the fruit and keeping the “apple” table (where the apples were cored, peeled, and sliced) clean; this is an important skill while cooking to assure that our food is free of any germs. We placed a piece of butcher paper to cover the “apple” table just to be extra clean. They were able to observe changes in the food, for example: the graham crackers browned on top and the apples became softer. The children estimated the amount of apple slices that might fit in the tin and chose their individual crust to apple ratio. They tasted them once the first batch came out to make sure our timing was enough and decided they did not want the apples too soft and so 15 minutes at 350 degrees was perfect!





We have officially ended our read aloud of "Cricket In Times Square". The children made predictions to how the book was going to end using language from Chester's conversations to Harry and Tucker leading up to the last chapter. We listened to Chester's last performance in

Grand Central Station, Lucia di Lammermoor, an opera song which is a sextet (which we looked up, it requires a six person performance but Chester was so talented he did it himself!). Among the various new vocab during the second to last chapter, "Orpheus", a new math topic arose as well: "5 minutes to six". This specific topic was quite challenging and a different way to look at time. To extend this challenge the children will be making clocks for different time word problems throughout the week. This reminds us how through great literature so many new learning experiences connect, even new math challenges. We are starting our new book study on Monday, "Wonder" by Raquel J. Palacio. Our TIME articles continue and seem to be a bit lengthier this time, some students chose to bring theirs home to read over the weekend and finish up their group article on Monday. The children will begin to organize their "portfolios" for conferences that are coming up. They are practicing responsibility and organizational skills regarding their work and individual goals in our classroom.

During our bodies with Ms. Dionysia's class, the children of Ms. Dionysia's class became "teachers" and lead a science lab on candy corn. They made predictions/ hypotheses and a data chart in their math/science journal to fill out over time. A piece of candy corn was placed in oil, cold water, hot water, and vinegar each in a separate beaker. They are on the window ledge in our classroom to revisit the conclusion on Monday.



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

