

Plato Academy: Room 9

Classroom Journal: **“You’re gonna reach the sky, Fly... Beautiful child” - Eurythmics**

Friday, December 8, 2017

Tis the season in room 9! We have decorated our stocking with our favorite holiday words and of course, a lot of glitter and have started the “Nutcracker”. This week we have practiced our winter program without papers in front of us and specifically the deeper meaning of precepts all year but during our holiday season and entering our new year. Recently, we downloaded the “Daily Wonder” app with a precept each day. Each day the app provides a different precept and a little information about the person it is quoting. Today we started our first one and will continue to do them until winter break. There are officially 2 more parts left until we are finished with *Wonder*. Today we started Auggie’s last part and the quote of the part was lyrics from the “Beautiful Child” song by Eurythmics. We jammed out during our indoor recess and at the end of Auggie’s part we talk about evidence from the text to support why the author chose those lyrics. This is just an example of the amazing things that go on during our lit circles with Ms. Alexandra’s class! The children worked together to analyze Jack, Justin, and Miranda this week. They drew venn diagrams comparing different viewpoints and engage in different discourse prompts such as “How did Daisy bring Via and Auggie together?” The children practice a lot of writing, character analysis, comprehension (recalling what they read), and exercising learned vocabulary. Lit circles are a crucial part in literacy development because of the skills they often foster and provoke.



A new game was brought to the math games buzz: Chess.... with points. Ms. Bia is learning a lot from the children about chess however Mr. Foti is quite the whiz. Scoring: pawns are 1 point; knights and bishops are 3 points; rooks are 5 points; and queens are 9 points. The children have been keeping score with tally marks and adding up the points. Mr. Foti has been incorporating them during math challenges as well. Every time you capture one of your

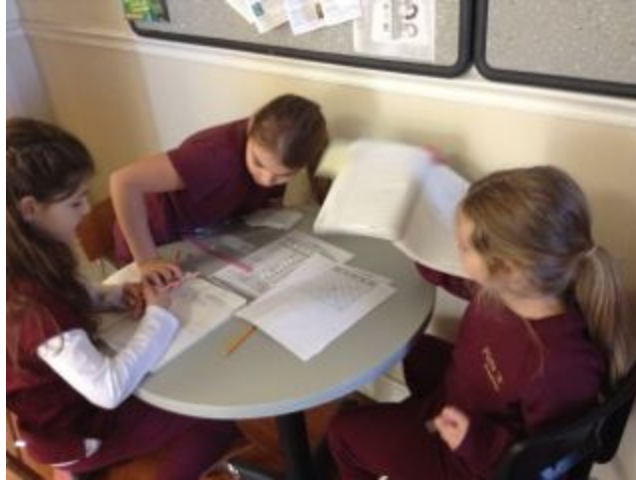
opponent's piece you receive the corresponding point; usually whoever has the most points will win the game because it means that the player has more of their own pieces on the board. Some of the children are excited to play chess with points and some are excited to tally up all the points! The children practice mental math stories. They don't have paper or pencil and have to think about the questions in their head in order to answer. Such as: If Cindy puts 5 marshmallows in her hot cocoa and 4 on the side, how many will she get to enjoy? ; If Cindy decided to make hot cocoa every 3rd day and her 1st cup is Sunday when number will her first cup on Tuesday be? (Your child knows, can you figure it out? Remember, mentally only :)



During our buddy time with Ms. Dionysia the children worked collaboratively in figuring out their own birthday, Ms. Bia's birthday, and Ms. Dionysia's birthday. How many more years apart are Ms. Bia and Ms. Dionysia- answers in Roman Numerals only! The children find it to be a secret code and it just makes a subtraction problem that much more interesting when you get to represent numbers with "code" as some children call it.







This week the children started exploring clay and paying attention to detail using only one color of clay and then the second day adding materials. We want to encourage them to pay close attention to detail and foster intention behind their free structure before we begin our representation of liberty after break. Next week they will practice writing about their “free” structure some made snowmen, scorpions, etc. so that they practice explaining their thought process and their intention. We can’t wait to start our liberty structures in January!

Friendly note: We have signed up for the “award winning” book patch at the library. I have spoken to some students individually and will be doing so throughout the next few weeks so that they have books to read over break for our patch and some started and finished 1 book already, some aren’t interested in the patch and so we will choose books together for break that they want to read. It is a common interest to read a book and then see the movie to compare it to (which is my favorite too) . Thank you for your support!

Have a great weekend!

Warmly,

Ms. Bia and Mr. Foti

PS Thank you for remembering to send your children with a deposit I know I forgot my reminder this week. Next week we will do it on Thursday. I will send a reminder.