

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We are on chapter 8 of our new novel study, ***Snow Treasure*** by Marie McSwigan. This story is based on an actual happening. On June 28, 1940, a Norwegian freighter reached Baltimore with a cargo of gold bullion worth 9 million. When the captain asked for a police escort while unloading the bullion, a strange story came to light. The gold, it was learned had been slipped past Nazi sentries by Norwegian children who pulled it on their sleds to a freighter hidden in one of the many fjords of Norway's coast. That no harm might come to the brave children nor to others of this recent little "Gold Rush," the location of the fjord was not disclosed and details were purposely omitted.

It is important that the students have lots of chances to use their new words so ask about our story every night. We are playing some games with our new vocabulary words. So far we have: Norway, fjords, determined, bond, tons, haste, quarrel, artifact, steep, and preparations.

2. We have been experimenting with making an unsinkable ship. We are using scissors to represent the slicing of the iceberg to the Titanic. We are using pennies to represent the gold that was loaded onto the Norwegian fishing boat. Ask your child how many pennies fit on their ship. Ask your child how the models of the Titanic sank compared to the real Titanic. Ask your child what other inventions were added to our North Atlantic pool.

3. We are looking over our menus from Via Roma. I sent home copies of the menu on Tuesday. Read it over with your child and have your child circle 2 or 3 of his/her top choices. We will plan on going Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 am. I will collect the money the week before. Please remember to include enough to cover tip. Via Roma has graciously offered the students a reduced rate of \$5.00 Just like last week, be sure to grab the teachable moment to figure out the difference from the menu price to our special price. This outing may look like just a fun thing to do in order to build *bonds* of friendship. It is that and so much more. To begin with, did you notice how I snuck in one of our new vocabulary words? We are all having a great time this week embracing each other to show our *bonds* of friendship.

4. Here is a class list of names. These can be used if your child wants to bring in Valentine cards. Valentines cards are a perfect example of a real life reason to read and write. All the cards should be made out by the students. I am giving the list a little early so your child will not have to do all the writing in one night.

Soti
Nathan
Janki
Aarya

Nikola
Konstantino
Wyatt
Dante
Mia
Maggie
Sophia
Luke
Mrs. Teresa

5. One student's interest in the Titanic has spread throughout the class. There are a couple students who voiced that it would be too scary to study the sinking of the Titanic. So we are officially "not" studying the Titanic. However questions still arise every day about the Titanic from 100% of our students. So we answer the questions and many students make models of the Titanic out of clay, legos, tinfoil, and Ramps and Pathways. Once the weather gets nice we all agree to take a four block walk to understand the length of the Titanic. Each day as we make our imaginary trip to Norway to enjoy reading Snow Treasure, we always imagine flying over the spot where the Titanic is laid to rest two miles under the North Atlantic Ocean. 100% of our students shout for joy when someone finds another book about the Titanic. Then we *all* enjoy reading it as I giggle inside because we are "not" studying the Titanic.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)