

Dear Parents,

In the spirit of the Olympic Games, we have found a winter competition for our class:

Matific, an online K to 6 math resource is running a math competition, and we are excited to be taking part!

The Matific Games, which runs from **February 21st to 28th**, 2018, awards students as they progress through the educational activities with stars.

The more our students play, the more stars are collected and the closer we become to winning the grand prize of \$15,000 cash! It is calculated by percentages.

The best part about this great competition is that screen time, really is learning time with Matific. A recent academic study showed that Matific helped improve students maths test results by 34%!

So let's all get into the competitive spirit and show other schools what we are made of. You can start now to get used to it and find your favorite games. We will be introducing it in class today and Monday.

I AM SENDING HOME YOUR CHILD'S PERSONAL USERNAME AND PASSWORD TODAY (FRIDAY).

The games run for one week starting Wednesday. Let's rally and see if we can bring home the gold. Plan a few play dates for playing Matific (We are calling it our Math Olympics). Let your child stay up late one night in order to play a few more games in our Math Olympics. Your child can choose the games that are just right for him or her. The games include all the foundational math skills needed so this gives us more opportunities to use ALL the math skills we are learning this year!

For more information visit **www.matific.com/matificgames**

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We are on chapter 12 of our novel study, **Snow Treasure** by Marie McSwigan. Our new vocabulary words are: catastrophe, unique, and reply. We were so busy celebrating Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day that we are left with a cliff-hanger in our story. RAIN!

2. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Monday and Tuesday we filled in Valentine MadLibs. Help show your child the "power of the pen" by enjoying their stories over and over again. They came home in the backpacks Monday and Tuesday. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you appreciate the stories, signs, and cards that they write. Hang it up on the refrigerator just like people do with a nice picture. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I am saying cherish every word...that's the key to getting more and more. Show your child how much you care about their written thoughts. Everyone wants to be heard...that goes for our writing also, we want someone to hear it and understand it and respond to it. :)

3. Here we come Via Roma! (Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 am) This field trip is one of my favorites. The students beam with pride as they order by themselves, receive the bill, read it and pay all by themselves. It is also a team building activity. We spend a lot of time together every week, so the stronger our relationships, the more supportive and encouraging we are to each other.

4. NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY in honor of Presidents' Day. Ask your child who they like better George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. Be sure they use one of my favorite words: "Because..."

5. We have started coloring and labeling the continent of Asia in preparation (*vocabulary word) for the "Celebrations of Cultures" **Friday, March 2nd from 6 to 8 pm**. This event is brought back by popular demand from last year. If anyone has visited parts of Asia and want to come into class to talk about the culture you experienced, please let us know. Thanks!

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)