

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We are on chapter 11 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.

Our new vocabulary words are: trudge, pledge, slope, enormous, goose stepping, defense, content, and famished. Research shows that people need to hear a new word 12 times before it becomes part of their vocabulary. Help me reach our goal of owning these new words. Talk about trudging through the snow. Talk about a special place that always makes you feel content. When your child says he/she is hungry, ask if he/she is hungry or faaaaamished. Try to list the top 10 most enormous things that exist. Suggest that your child bring the list to school to share and teach. Make a pledge to read 2 NEW books each week. Reading the same favorites builds confidence, fluency, and vocabulary. Reading new books helps us discover more favorite books.

We have added big cuddly blankets to our story time. :) It is cold in Norway so we cuddle up and get warm to listen to our story. With all the snow, how about pretending your family is in Norway. After rolling down some snow slopes, come in and cuddle up with a good book.

2. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! We are making Valentine decorations, cards and invitations. Which means we are writing and reading and enjoying every minute of it! How about going all out this year at your house and decorate every room in your house with a Happy Valentine's Day poster? Don't forget the vehicles and the doghouse or fishbowl. Have fun and Happy Valentine's Day!

3. Here we come Via Roma! (Wednesday, February 21st at 10:30 am) Via Roma has graciously offered the students a reduced rate of \$5.00 Remember to include some money for tip. Please send your money to school in an envelope with your child's name on it by Friday, February 16th. I will keep the money until the 21st and then hand it back to each student right before we leave for lunch.

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. As stated in Parent Notes, all the students and staff are welcome to wear pajamas to school on Valentine's Day. We will have indoor recess that day due to us being in our pj's. I also invite the students in my class to bring in a stuffed animal on pajama day. We will have fun teaching our animals everything we know.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape :)

P. S. Remember to send snow pants, boots, and warm waterproof gloves to school. Sometimes if the sun comes out in the afternoon, the temperature goes up.