

Dear Parents,

We have had a good week full of lots of literacy activities! We have been practicing our Reader's Theater script of *Stone Soup* and have even brought in props to use. If we are ready next week, we will perform for a few other classes. We are also several chapters into *Charlotte's Web* and are hoping to get the chance to go see a play version of it next week. We are discussing what is happening in the novel and making predictions about what's coming next.

We met with our STEM Buddies from Ms. Dionysia's class and they helped us brainstorm and start writing a story based on the theme "Adventures of Simone." We are writing a class book that will be published by Scholastic at no cost to us. Each student is writing a 5-7 sentence story and will illustrate it as well. In order to publish our book for free, Scholastic requests each family to fill out an order form indicating whether or not you want to purchase a book. They are @ \$20 each. Please don't feel any pressure to purchase one. We will have a class copy and each child can take a turn bringing it home to share with families. When you come to conferences I will ask each family to fill out the form because we need to include them when we mail off our book to Scholastic to be published.

Our science experiment with teeth continues. We made predictions recently about what was happening to the teeth we had placed in Coke, chocolate milk, Sprite, water and orange juice. Some of the predictions included getting cavities, staying clean, smelling weird, and dissolving. Once we took the teeth out to examine them, everyone was surprised at how brown the tooth that was soaking in Coke had become after only a week. The students made observations about the teeth including how the one that was in Sprite for a month was becoming soft. This week we will place a tooth coated in toothpaste in Coke and see if that makes a difference.

Today we had a wonderful math activity orchestrated totally by the students. A few of them were putting plastic links together to make a long chain. When it became too long to stretch out in our classroom, they asked if they could go out in the hall

to see how long it was. Once they were out in the hall they added on to it until it reached from Ms. Noel's class all the way past the office to Ms. Alexandra's classroom. I suggested that they measure it and almost all of the students pitched in bringing all the tape measures we could find out into the hall to help measure. We added all of numbers together from all of the tape measures and discovered that the chain measured 646 inches long! I love when their exploration leads to an activity that everyone is excited about and they work together communicating, collaborating and using critical thinking skills to problem solve.

A few notes: I will be sending home a Scholastic book order tomorrow and if you would like to place an order, they will be due Wednesday, March 14. I am putting in the order early enough to make sure the books will arrive before we leave for spring break.

Simone is still available next weekend (March 16). That Friday is our half day of school. Please send me an email if you would like to bring her home. Thanks!

Conferences are next week and I am looking forward to speaking with you about your amazing children. Please sign up by Monday.

Have a great weekend!

Ms. Leslie

