

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We have finished our novel study, **Snow Treasure** by Marie McSwigan. Here is our full list of vocabulary words that made it onto our board and were involved in our various games.: astonish, portholes, curfew, epidemic, commotion, raging, pummeled, battered, seeped, haste, dense, despise, defense, gorge, goose stepping, slope, commence, Norway, unique, reply, pledge, fjord, determined, enormous, catastrophe, trudge, content, famished, admire, artifact, bond, quarrel, preparations, steep, tons, ban, suspicious, commander, stammer, contagious, and numb

2. I will see you at the Greek Independence Day Program tonight. Speaking in front of people is the #1 fear of Americans. Having this wonderful opportunity to build self-confidence and courage is another facet of your child's education that we foster here at Plato believing that every student has a voice and is a productive member of our society. Following the program celebrate the success and reflect on how great it feels to have performed even though he/she was nervous beforehand. Then mention how MUCH you are looking forward to our end of the year performance.

3. Saint Baldricks's Day was a success. We were so very fortunate to have a special visitor on Thursday afternoon for our St. Baldrick's event. His name is Tommy T. and he is 6 years old and is from Park Ridge. He was diagnosed with ALL (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia) in January of 2015. He has already been through his toughest chemotherapy and lost his hair. Now his hair has grown back and he looks like an ordinary child though his strength is nothing short of extraordinary. Tommy is currently "in maintenance" which means he is still being treated with chemotherapy but will hopefully not lose his hair again (much lighter side effects). Tommy is a 2018 St. Baldrick's Honored Kid - here is the link to his page: <https://www.stbaldricks.org/kids/mypage/7899>.

Here is the message on his page: "I am Tommy and I am in maintenance therapy for B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I am strong and brave when I go to the hospital for my treatments. I will take medicines every day for 3 and a half years. Thank you for supporting me and the more than 300,000 kids worldwide who will be diagnosed with cancer this year. By sharing the gifts of your time, talent and money with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, you're supporting research to give all kids with cancer a better chance for a cure."

4. I enjoyed meeting with all of you for Parent/Teacher Conferences. I expect there are a few extra thoughts you have as you reflect upon our conference and discuss with your child his/her accomplishments, successes, and goals. I would be happy to hear from each and everyone of you this week.

5. I am hanging around my house for spring break doing some painting and landscaping so if your child (with your help) wants to email me during spring break to share something special they are doing, learning, reading, discovering, or thinking about, I will be happy to take a break from my work to hear the good news and reply (vocabulary word).

I have sent home a sheet for your child to brainstorm things that he/she admires. (vocabulary word). Your child will use this list as a springboard of ideas to write the book that Scholastic is going to publish for us. This is the book I spoke to all of you about at parent/teacher conferences. The final product will arrive sometime in the middle May. If you misplace the brainstorming sheet, just have your child start a new list of things he/she admires. We are aiming for ten or more. Yes, your child can write all the words!

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape 😊