

Monday, January 22:

What a great Monday! Today's chapter in Mr. Popper's Penguins we found out what the surprise and cryptic message from Admiral Drake all the way in Antarctica was about. Mr. Popper opened a package and out walked a penguin! The chapter ended with Mr. Popper and his children Janie & Bill naming the penguin Captain Cook. See if your child can tell you why they named him that!

We went to visit our tree today with Ms. Alexandra's class and we noticed a few buds! Ask your child if they saw any changes from last month and what they predict our tree will look like in February.

At the end of the day, we had a little refresher in what exactly makes a story and after discussing our 5 key elements, we wrote them down to help us with a special activity tomorrow. Does your child remember what five things we listed?

1. Characters
2. Setting
3. Plot
4. Problem
5. Solution

Totally tubular Tuesday and HBD Tatum!

Our morning challenge was another joke. Let's see if you can get this one! How do all the oceans say hello to each other?

After learning a little bit about how to write a story and the five guidelines yesterday, we spent some time this morning writing a mini story of our own! I began and said "Gregory was a small penguin.."and then the next person added on to my sentence and we continued the story this way. As the children spoke, I wrote down what they were saying. After reading it at the end, we went back and noted where our beginning, middle, and end were. We also underlined our characters, our plot, our conflict, and our resolution. See the pictures attached!

Today we read a book (also a true story!) called And Tango Makes Three about two male penguins that live in the Central Park Zoo. While all the other male penguins were noticing their female counterparts, Roy and Silo, both male, discovered each other in 1998. Because they had been nesting, but without an egg, a zookeeper gave them another couple's egg to raise and watch over since that other couple could never raise more than one at a time. Although we talked about characters, setting, plot, conflict, and resolution as a class, see if your child can tell you!

Lastly, Mr. Popper is having a new ice box delivered to their house tomorrow for their human food since they have given the refrigerator to Captain Cook. Captain Cook was so hungry, he ate all the goldfish from the fish bowl! He seems to really love his new home though! Stay tuned...

The first picture is from our tree visit with our buddies yesterday and the second is from the story we made up today!

By the way, the answer to today's joke was....THEY WAVE!

Good afternoon Parents and Happy Wednesday!

Morning challenge joke: What did one wall say to the other wall? I'll meet you at the corner!

We read chapter 5 of our book today and it keeps getting better and better and so do our own books! Mr. Popper called a serviceman to help him drill holes into their refrigerator and place a handle on the inside of it for Captain Cook to be more comfortable. However, upon hearing these crazy requests, the serviceman began to get a liiiiittle nervous as to who he was dealing with. After Mr. Popper gave him the last of his \$10, he did what was asked of him, but then Captain Cook came out of the bedroom and scared him so badly he ran out screaming! We left off with finding out the serviceman called the police! Ask your child about today's chapter and what they predict will happen tomorrow.

Being National School Choice Week this week, we wrote down some reasons why WE love Plato Academy and then drew a picture. I have put them up in the hallway outside our classroom, come take a look! Some answers included: "because it's caring, we have fun, people are kind" and so many more great responses!

Not everybody had a chance to finish their penguin eggs last week and this week, but we are done today! Tomorrow, (your child doesn't know this yet) we will be spending a day in the life of a male penguin! We're going to be waddling around all day with our eggs placed securely (and of course safely) on top of our feet. I'll be sure to send you all pictures afterwards!

Lastly, I brought in a few new games today to keep us intrigued, challenged, thinking, excited, etc.! Ask your child about the tangram!

Happy Thursday and almost weekend Parents:)

What do you call cheese that is not your cheese? NACHO CHEESE! They got a kick out of that one:)

After our usual morning challenge and morning meeting/discussion, we read chapter six of our book today. Everyone seemed a bit surprised and annoyed that new characters in the book today, including the policeman, didn't know what a penguin was! Mr. Popper was getting very frustrated on the phone trying to find out if he needs a license for Captain Cook. Have your child summarize the chapter for you!

Afterwards, we had a very special visit from the Hellenic Museum today for just a little over an hour where we got to learn about ancient Greek artifacts and use our hands to mold some clay into pottery! We had so much fun learning about ancient games kids used to play like knucklebones, what baby rattles looked and sounded like, puppets, a discus, and more! We also heard the myth about the phoenix and learned that ancient Greeks passed their stories from generation to generation on their pottery, just like the jug we saw the phoenix on today. I wonder if your child remembers the tale!

By the time we finished up being archaeologists, we had just enough time for our snack, some math games, and open gym time before music today! Our afternoons fly by after specials (lunch, recess, quiet reading time, 3:00!).

Reminder: Tomorrow is bank deposit day and deadline for book orders!

What an awesome Friday!

To cap off National School Choice Week, we danced and showed our Plato school pride this morning in the gym! We wore our scarves, danced with them, and just had a wonderful time with our peers. I'll attach some pictures and a short clip!

Our morning challenge made us really think today! I asked your child to write in the journal what they predict will happen in our chapter today. During our morning meeting we discussed as a class what each of us thought and stated our reasoning. Some predictions were Mr. Popper will get another penguin because the book is called Mr. Popper's Penguins, Mr. Popper will get angry again, he'll get into some trouble, and more! Amazing to hear their thought process as to how they came to that conclusion! Our chapter was very short today, but we learned that Captain Cook started ransacking the house and bringing a variety of things into the refrigerator where he started to make a nest.

After finishing up our entry in our books, it was time for snack and math games. A few groups wanted to put a little twist on their games today and started taking score! For example, during Sorry! they would write the number of spaces they moved on a paper and then at the end, add them together. Whoever had the highest number, would go first in the next round. I loved this! What a great idea and impromptu math activity! On Fridays we have two specials back to back (gym with Coach Matt-they cheer so loudly when they remember we have him & Spanish) and then we head straight to lunch. Recess follows and on days like today, we REALLY enjoy our time outside. A few of us started playing 1,2,3 Kokkino Fos (Greek version of red light/green light) with our friends in Mr. Chris's class. I loved everything about this; playing with our friends in another class, speaking in Greek OUTSIDE of Greek class, exercising, and socializing.

When we got back to school, it was time for a little quiet reading time, but to also fill out our bank deposit slips. Being that we are still learning the value of our coins, how to add everything together, and of course, how to actually fill out our slips, I work one-on-one with your child rather than as a group activity. Another week or two and your children will be balancing checkbooks! Have your child show you how they fill out their deposit slip!

Have an AWESOME weekend!