

Good evening Room 5 Parents!

I hope you all had a great weekend and hopefully got a chance to spend some time outside in the nice weather!

We had a great start to our week today and now that our pottery from the Hellenic visit last week has dried, we painted them this morning! Some of us chose to paint them one solid color, others chose a pattern, using a few different colors, and then some of us even did a Greek pattern like the Greek key! I will be sending these home tomorrow:)

Our chapter today was a bit longer than our previous chapters. Mr. Popper took Captain Cook on a walk, but soon found out it was NOT an easy task! Mr. Popper ran into a lot of people he believed to be his friends from the neighborhood and nobody knew what a penguin was! Some people mistook Captain Cook for a puffin or even a dodo. Mr. Popper and his penguin were on their way home when a couple of reporters that were on their way to their house stopped them in the middle of the street to interview him. Does your child remember what ELSE happened?!

After our morning challenge, morning meeting, chapter read and book illustrations, it was already time to clean up from free choice, have our snack and then move into math games before specials. Here is the safe snack list that you can also use for Valentines in a couple weeks rather than candy.

<https://snacksafely.com/safe-snack-guide/>

Pencils, stickers, bubbles, etc. all make great valentines as well! I will also attach a list of names for your child to use when writing valentines.

During math games today, I introduced yet ANOTHER new game! I love that the excitement from our previous ones has not died down yet and I don't see that happening any time soon with this one either. The game is called Rock Me Archimedes, but who or what is Archimedes? We had a little discussion about him that seemed to get everyone really excited about playing the game and shouting, "EUREKA! I'M A GENIUS" at the end. You need to be super strategic while playing this game and try as best you can to keep your hand steady and keep everything balanced! Luck doesn't hurt either of course:)

Unfortunately, we plan and we plan, but we don't always get around to everything we would like. Tomorrow we will finally be trying our penguin experiment first thing in the morning and going on a nature walk to collect various things we want to use to make a nest! Please don't tell your child because if it's too cold or something else occurs and we cannot go, I don't want to disappoint them!

Although our deposit day is Fridays, feel free to send your child with their deposit anytime during the week and we can fill out their slip prior to Friday to keep with their money at school.

Please keep in mind we continue to go outside when the feels like temperature is above 25 degrees Fahrenheit for our regular recess time and if the feels like is 11 or above we still go outside, just a shorter time. Make sure your child has appropriate winter weather gear i.e. snow pants, boots, heavy winter coat, gloves, hat, scarf, ear muffs, etc. If you do NOT want your child to leave their gym shoes and/or snow pants here, please let me know so I can make note of it and make sure your child brings their gear home.

WHAT AN AWESOME DAY!

Somehow during morning meeting today, we got on the topic of summer and how many days of school we have left in the year. Well, rather than me just telling them we started writing down each month and the days on the board. Then crossing out or erasing Saturdays and Sundays and days off in that month. We then counted

how many days for each month and wrote our answer on the side. Finally, we added February, March, April, May, and June 1 to get 78 school days! However, I later realized we totally neglected January 31:/ oops, 79!

Super short chapter today about Mr. Popper going to the barbershop with Captain Cook and getting thrown out:(Mr. Popper realized Captain Cook really just wanted some exercise so he took him into the building behind the barbershop (since they had to go out the back door) and they ran quickly up the three flights of stairs. Mr. Popper failed to realize that Captain Cook would then want to toboggan DOWN the stairs! Mind you, they're still connected with the leash at this point. By the time they got back home, Mr. Popper was a mess and Captain Cook was happy.

I am SO impressed how careful your children were with their penguin eggs all morning! We had them on in the classroom, in the hallway, going to the bathroom, in lunch, during ramps and pathways in the gym, and Greek! Our goal was to make sure that we waddled carefully enough where our feet stayed together and our egg wouldn't touch the ground. They had the idea to get completely into character and one child's suggestion was, "but penguins don't use words, they don't talk like us. They communicate differently." They sure do! This is when everyone started to speak like a penguin! Ask them to teach you some penguin language!

Rather than going to the park today, we went on a beautiful nature walk and made a couple of stops to collect things for our nests. Male penguins will make their nests before breeding (they take great pride in their nests because this is what will impress a female!), but honestly, the idea came to me yesterday when I saw something that looked like a nest outside my car! They're not quite finished, but they are on display in the hallway outside our room if you'd like to come take a look.

Have a fabulous evening and see you all tomorrow!

P.S. I'm having some issues downloading the photos to send you from today so stay tuned! Hopefully I can figure it out soon and forward those to you all as well:)

P.P.S. PLEASE make sure your child has appropriate winter weather gear! Some of our hands and heads were cold today:(

Good afternoon Parents,

We jumped right into our book first thing this morning and we're already half way done with it! Today's chapter was a little sad:(Captain Cook wasn't feeling well and the Poppers couldn't figure out why. He wasn't playing with Janie and Bill anymore, he wasn't running over to Mrs. Popper when she opened a can of shrimp, and he was just very melancholy in his refrigerator. Mrs. Popper took his temperature and they called the vet. Mr. Popper then decided since a letter is what brought the Captain to him, then he would write a letter again to find a cure for his penguin. A vet in the nation's largest aquarium wrote back and said he was having the same problem with one of his female penguins. Our chapter ended with learning about a penguin named Greta coming to live with Captain Cook and the Poppers.

Afterwards, we took a trip to the library! We're coming to a close on our exploration of penguins and did not need any more non-fiction books, but we definitely needed some new fiction for our own reading. Some of you may be wondering if I choose the books or if they are pre-selected, the answer is no! Your children, as with our curriculum, decide what books they would like to check out and what they are interested in. How else can we foster a love of reading and books!? I hope you're all reading a book every night with your child:)

When we returned to school it was time for snack, math games, and then our Wednesday specials: gym and Greek. After our specials we go straight to lunch and....the weather was warm enough to be at the park for our entire recess time!! <https://childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/>

To cap off our day, we watched a mini documentary about every type of penguin from the smallest, known as the little penguin to the largest, the emperor. We danced like penguins, tried to mimic some of the sounds the different penguins make, and ended our day with a discussion about an interesting fact we took away from it.

Tomorrow, I would like to bring in a mini penguin "meal" if it is OK with you all. I plan on bringing shrimp and octopus (I don't think everyone will want to try, but you never know!), but would like your permission first. If your child has never eaten one or both and you are unaware of any possible allergic reaction, please let me know and we will pass on this!

Thank you and have a great night.

I love when your kids get excited about coming back to school the next day and are sad to leave at the end of the day! That was how we felt after today again:)

Our chapter today was about Greta and Captain Cook getting to know each other and the Poppers coming up with plenty of ideas as to how exactly they were going to take care of two penguins now. They opened all the windows and allowed the cool October air to fill their home, even though they were freezing under all their winter clothes. Mr. Popper then had the bright idea (at least in his mind) to leave the windows open, but pour water aaaaallll over the floors in their apartment. Oh my goodness, an in-home ice rink! Needless to say Captain Cook and Greta were ever so grateful and even Janie and Bill joined them in some tobogganing around their home!

We had our buddies in Ms. Alexandra's class help us with an extra special project today that we can't quite tell you about yet, but you will all know soon!!

Since it was too cold to go outside for recess today, we had time to finish up a Natgeo kids penguin video that had quiz questions your children were shouting out all the correct answers to! Ask them why a penguin has a black back and a white belly or why they spend so much time grooming and oiling their bodies.

At the end of the day, it was finally time for our penguin meal. We had SO MUCH FUN!!! One of your children even said at the end that now they want to be a penguin! We talked about the different textures, the tastes, how the temperature and the salt water play a role, and overall if we would eat these foods again. I couldn't find octopus so maybe we'll try that and squid a different day, but the shrimp and tuna was just fine, a few of us even had seconds...and thirds...and maybe even fourths:)

Tomorrow is bank deposit day!