

Dear Parents,

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. We have started our new novel study: *Gooseberry Park* by Cynthia Rylant. "When Kona, a labrador retriever, meets Stumpy, a squirrel in Gooseberry Park, he is happy to have a new friend. But after Stumpy's babies are born... (Tune in next week). Ask your child: Take a nature stroll around your block...how many squirrel nests can you find? Stumpy is a red squirrel, ask your child the difference between red squirrels and the gray squirrels we have around Des Plaines. What do the baby squirrels have in common with other baby animals?"

2. We finished writing and illustrating our book and sent it to Scholastic for publishing! We sent it off April 13th. The publishing date is April 20th. Look at a calendar with your child and estimate what day we will receive our books. Have a COUNTDOWN to the expected day! If we want reading and writing to be exciting to children, then let's show them how excited we are about reading and writing!!!

3. Renowned author Ronald Dahl is promoting creativity and writing: "Welcome to Roald Dahl's Imaginormous Challenge – starring Willy Wonka! Here, a 100-word story idea could win an extraordinary once-in-a-lifetime prize! Wonka – the world's most famous chocolate maker – is embarking on a nationwide search for FIVE brilliant story ideas from children around the United States. The winning story ideas, with a little help from some of Wonka's most esteemed companions, will be transformed into creations beyond anyone's wildest dreams..."

Sounds like a fun challenge. Students can write as many imaginative story ideas as they want. The contest runs through May 1st. We will be entering some of our ideas here at school but the opportunities for growing your imagination are endless. Go ahead and enter as many as you want from home. Let's keep this book writing trend going strong!

<https://www.imaginormouschallenge.com/teachers/?linkId=49113423>

4. We introduced a new math game. We fill in the bricks to a pyramid using clues. The clues involve understanding the concept of ones, tens, and hundreds. Please point out your house number again but this time discuss how many ones, tens, and hundreds are involved. Find the Matific games focusing on place value and play (Bounce the Shelf, Monster Shop - Add tens, Buying Toys, Lucky Stars - Hundred Board game, Paint Mixing, etc...) I have added about 30 NEW games to our Matific sight. Some of them your child may need guidance with the first few times.

5. On Wednesday we had choreographers add dance moves to our song. We are still working at adding some dialogue to our skit. Ask them specifically to show you the "choreography" they learned for our skit. We are working at adding the word "choreography" to our vocabulary.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape 😊

**"If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself." – Albert Einstein**