

Dear Parents,

It has been another short but eventful week. We completed our Scholastic class book and will be sending it off tomorrow. It was very rewarding to watch the students as they helped each other finish their pages. Without me asking, several students who had completed their pages offered to help other students. They dictated the words from the rough drafts so that the person writing could just write without having to stop and figure out where they left off. One student advised another as to what to draw, one offered to finish a drawing for someone who was struggling, and another student offered to write some lines for someone who had accidentally put a hole in his copy due to overzealous erasing and was feeling discouraged. They encouraged each other, praised each other's efforts, and rallied together to get it all done. I am always impressed with how this group has formed into such a close knit, collaborative community.

We started our new novel study this week. I gave them a synopsis of each of the choices and let them vote. It was an almost unanimous decision: *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary. When we started the novel, I let them know that it was published in 1965 and we did the math to figure out how many years ago that was. Today while I was driving to school, I heard on the radio that it was Beverly Cleary's 102nd birthday! When I told the class, right away someone asked, "How old was she when she wrote it in 1965?" So of course we did the math and discovered that she was 49 or 50 years old when the book was published and therefore younger than I am, as a student pointed out. Got to love their astute observations!

To celebrate National Grilled Cheese Day, we got together with Ms. Alexandra's class for some history, science, math and munching! We read about the history of grilled cheese, and how in 1916, in Chicago, James L. Kraft patented his pasteurized cheese, which resisted spoiling and could be shipped long distances. During World War I, the United States Army purchased 6 million pounds of Kraft's cheese. In World War II, Navy cooks prepared countless "American cheese filling sandwiches" for hungry Naval seamen. Over one hundred years

later, Kraft American cheese was being enjoyed by our Plato kids as they made their own grilled cheese sandwiches with their STEM buddies. It was a lot of fun and yummy too!

This week we also met with a few dance students from Columbia who choreographed a dance for us to perform at the end of the year program. The kids did great and were very enthusiastic about learning the moves. We ran out of time before we got through the entire dance but will work on it ourselves over the coming weeks.

The children also picked their parts for the Toy Story skit they will be performing at the end of the year program. I will be sending home scripts as soon as I finish them (hopefully next week). As for costumes, I am asking for your help and input as to what kind of costume your child will wear. They do not have to be elaborate. They can be as simple or as creative as you'd like. With the limited time we have at school, I will be asking you to help create a costume for your child as well as work on helping your child learn their lines for the show. Thanks for your help and support with this project!

A few notes: We will be going to the library Monday for Tumblebooks so please make sure your child has headphones to use.

Tomorrow we will be going to the bank so you can send in money if you'd like your child to make a deposit.

Have a great weekend and as always, thanks for sharing your amazing children with me!

Ms. Leslie