

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: Do you know a place that you think looks like Gooseberry Park? Why do you think Kona and Stumpy are such good friends? Do you think Murray is going to be a nuisance or a help? How many babies do you think Stumpy will have? Do you know any people who collect treasures like Stumpy?"

2. We worked hard this week to finish the text of our new book; we will put the finishing touches on our illustrations next week. Our deadline is next Friday. Encourage your child by letting him/her know how you are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our first published book. We will have a copy in the classroom so if you did not order one, you will still be able to stop in and enjoy having your child read their first published book to you.

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 have new additions to our Ramps and Pathways. Thank you to all who donated items. The excitement over the new ramps and connectors was evident on Tuesday. Ask your child about their creations on Tuesday mornings.

5. We had a special presentation this week in preparation for our End of the Year Program. Our band director gave us a personalized lesson on the trumpet, flute, saxophone, and clarinet. On this coming Wednesday we have choreographers adding dance moves to our song. Discuss with your child which instruments they would like to play one day.

Your partner in education, Mrs. Teresa Pape 😊