

Dear Parents,

Continuing our exploration of the life cycle of butterflies, this week we are attempting to grow grass caterpillars in our room. We went outside on Tuesday and worked with partners to fill cut up stockings with potting soil mixed with grass seed. It was fun seeing how they worked together. Some students held the stocking while the other students used a shovel to add the dirt. Other students lay the stocking down and used their hands to try to push the dirt into it. They also used positive encouragement to motivate their partners to keep going: “You’re doing great! Keep going. I think you should add just a little more. It’s looking good!” Our caterpillars are sitting on trays in our window and we are watering them each day hoping they will eventually sprout grass (hopefully before school ends). Today the question of the day was “When do you think our caterpillars will start sprouting grass?” The responses varied from “today” all the way to “the last day of school.” Once they begin to grow we will add legs and eyes to personalize them.

This week we read a book called “*What If You Had Animal Feet?*” The book describes different animal feet and what special characteristics we would have if we had feet like a cheetah, a mountain goat, a housefly, etc. The book also contains facts about feet and tips to take care of our feet. We learned that the largest human feet are 15 inches long and belong to a man named Brahim from Morocco. We each measured our own feet (shoes optional) and subtracted our foot size from Brahim’s. We discovered that the majority of us had feet that were seven or eight inches shorter than Brahim’s.

We met with our STEM buddies from Ms. Dionysia’s class this week and spent some time reading together and some time rehearsing for our end of the year program. They watched us perform our song and dance and gave us some tips and also lots of praise. We also had the opportunity to watch them rehearse and see how professional the older kids look. It gave us something to work toward and now we are super motivated!

We began reading the first book in the Magic Tree House series, *Dinosaurs Before Dark*. They are fun, short, educational chapter books that are a great transition

from picture books. There are currently fifty-four books in the series and the first one was published in 1992. I remember my son (who is now 22) loved this series and collected as many of the books as he could. The main characters Annie and Jack are ages 7 & 8 and that is appealing to the students because they can identify with them and imagine themselves in the stories, experiencing the adventures.

Tomorrow is National Pizza Party Day and we will be using our math and cooking skills to make English muffin pizzas. We have been working on fractions so this activity will give us a chance to put into practice our understanding of halves, quarters, thirds, etc. We will also be reading some pizza themed books such as *Pete's a Pizza* and *Peg + Cat: The Pizza Problem*.

Today some of the students looked at photos on my iPad that dated back to last year. We couldn't believe how young they all looked! It's so hard to believe that this school year is almost over. They have all grown so much and in so many ways! I am always impressed with our conversations, all of their insights, and all of the ways they connect and care for each other.

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

Ms. Leslie