

Dear Parents,

THANK YOU for all the thank yous! Teacher Appreciation week was delightful and delicious. And thank you again for giving me the privilege of learning and laughing alongside your child every day! 😊

Highlights from this week to discuss with your child:

1. The energy is growing to cover our entire classroom with new vocabulary words. Earlier this year I mentioned that research shows a person needs to use a word 12 times before it becomes part of their vocabulary so if your child does not know some of the words on our wall, it just means he/she has not used it 12 times YET. New words: common knowledge, volume, drastic, resemble, illusion, motivational, opossum, sympathetic, beneficial, odor, vital, metamorphosis, inventory, and ironic. Irony is a difficult abstract concept to grasp. The example I used was that DURING SCREEN FREE WEEK our class received more awards from Matific for being one of the top classes in the entire nation to spend so much time playing their computer math games. I waited and handed out the awards yesterday along with our new vocabulary word.

2. Our pupas are completing their **metamorphosis** and hatching into adult ladybugs. Some fascinating Ladybug facts: There are over 5,000 different species of ladybugs. Ladybugs are found on every continent except Antarctica. Ladybugs secrete an **odor** to ward off predators. The ladybug is one of the most common **beneficial** insect because they eat other problem bugs like aphids. We will set our ladybugs free next week.

3. We combined our study of farming and the water cycle with our novel study of the drought in Gooseberry Park. Ask your child how well his/her master plan to save our tadpoles worked. Ask your child to predict the animals' Master Plan from our book, "Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan." Also ask your child what our class is doing each day to prevent the erosion of our rich Illinois soil.

5. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR HAVING YOUR CHILD PRACTICE THEIR LINES AND DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY AT HOME. Saying their lines once a day WITH EXAGGERATED EXPRESSION AND PRONUNCIATION and singing and dancing to the song one time each night is enough. Even if they know it, the repetition is **vital** (vocabulary word) to offset the butterflies that inevitably show up on the big day.

The students will wear black pants (black sweat pants, black jeans, or black leggings for girls) and **plain** white t-shirts. We will be painting on whiskers and a cat nose at the church right before the program and also wearing cat ears. The ears will stay here at school for rehearsals and I will bring them to the program. After the program, your child can keep his/her cat ears as a souvenir of our one-of-a-kind original jazz gig!

Happy Mothers' Day, Mrs. Teresa Pape 😊

P. S. Local libraries are gearing up to start their summer reading programs. Most of them put a lot of effort into providing fun activities and rewards for reading.