

## Ms. Dionysia's Classroom Connection

Here are some of the activities/projects the children were engaged in this week:

### A Peek at the Week

SuperScience Scholastic-This year our class will be utilizing SuperScience magazine. This resource includes science informational articles with hands on investigations.

- The students read an article titled "Sticky Business" and learned that Anna Bullus, an engineer used the engineering design process to create a bin for used gum. Anna Bullus observed a problem in her community that discarded gum on sidewalks and surfaces harden and can stay there for years. In addition, cleaning it can be very expensive. She had an idea to solve the problem in her community. She spent a year working on a **prototype**- (a testable model) a small round bin where people could deposit chewed gum. Bullus turns the gum from the bins into products like pencils, travel mugs, rainboots and much more!
- Hands-On Investigation-Stretch Test- The students were engaged in an experiment to investigate what happens to the stretchiness of chewing gum in warm and cold temperatures. Please make sure to ask your child about this investigation and the results/conclusions!! Ask them what the term **elasticity** means! They were so excited to chew gum in school and to measure the elasticity of their gum using meter sticks!!

### Phantom Tollbooth Novel Study

- Who is Norton Juster? The students were engaged in researching information about the author and wrote a **biography** paragraph including important information about the author life.
- **Idioms**- One of the many ways that Norton Juster had fun in this book was in using idioms. The students went on a Idiom hunt and looked throughout their book to locate idioms. Then the students were encouraged to draw pictures to go with the idioms they found from the book (or any others they can come up with). Then the students had a chance to guess what idiom is being used by looking at the picture. For example, the idiom - It's raining cats and dogs-could show cats and dogs falling from the sky just like rain.

Some Idioms the students used:

- Butterflies in the stomach.
- As cool as a cucumber
- Time flies.
- Money doesn't grow on trees.
- When pigs fly.
- Get your ducks in a row.
- It's raining cats and dogs.
- I put my foot in my mouth.

Make sure to check out our Idioms outside our classroom!

- Design a Math Code- This week the students exchanged their secret codes and were encouraged to solve the equations in order to reveal the secret message.
- Vocabulary Concentration-Using vocabulary words from their novel the students created a game that matched vocabulary words with their definitions. This vocabulary activity reinforced spelling, definitions and concentration.

**“Every cloud has a silver lining”**

**-Idiom of the day :)**