

Dear Parents,

There are amazing things happening in Room 4, and the adventure has just begun!!

We are definitely getting into a routine now that we've had a full week of school. We had our first music class, our first library visit, and we used our building and engineering skills during Ramps and Pathways.

In preparation for our novel study, we started the week by exploring peaches. We felt the fuzzy skin (exocarp) and chopped them up so we could taste the flesh (mesocarp). (We also saved some and made smoothies!) Then we used a hammer to break open the pits (endocarp) and discovered seeds inside. We are going to plant some of the seeds in a few weeks, but right now we are recreating what happens in nature and stratifying the seeds by keeping them in the freezer. Did you know that drupe is a fancy word for a stone fruit?

The activity with peaches led up to the introduction of our first novel study, "James and the Giant Peach" by Roald Dahl. After learning a few things about the author, we started reading the book and have gotten through the first three chapters. After each chapter, the children complete a Chapter Check-In reflection page. Ask your child to use a few adjectives to describe Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker.

This week we started our mornings with Money Math Challenges in order to get us ready for our bank visits, which will start next week. I specified an amount of money, and the kids had to figure out what coins could be used to make that amount. Have your child help you

count money when you're out running errands. The practice in real- life situations is ideal! We're learning the words to the "Money Melody" so that it can help us remember what the coins are worth:

*Penny, penny, easily spent. Copper brown and worth one cent! Nickel, nickel, thick and fat. You're worth 5 cents, I know that! Dime, dime, little and thin. I remember you're worth 10! Quarter, quarter, big and bold. You're worth 25, I am told!*

We are continuing our artist study by painting a mural based on Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper. Our version will be quite a bit smaller than the original (which is about 15 ft. by 29 ft.), but it will be just as magnificent to look at!

Notes:

- Please remember that there is no school on Monday, Labor Day.

- Please save Box Tops for Education and send them in with your child. (Ask family and neighbors to collect for us too!) It is a simple way to earn money for our school!

As always, please feel free to call, email, or text me with any questions or concerns.

Bridget

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