

Dear Parents,

Room 4 had another outstanding, marvelous, fantastic, interesting, awesome, eventful, exciting, intriguing, creative, splendid, and inspirational week. (Can you tell we've been learning about adjectives??)

As we read "James and the Giant Peach," we are introduced to so many new vocabulary words. We discuss the words before reading the chapter in which they appear, so that we are familiar with the meaning as it relates to the context. We then add the words to our Word Wall, so we can continue to refer to them as we are reading, speaking, and writing.

On Tuesday the kids were given a STEM challenge...to build the longest possible paper chain using just one sheet of paper, scissors, and tape. I was *curious* (a Word Wall word) to see how the kids would approach the activity, and I was impressed with their ideas. Then we compared the length of the chains and discussed the different strategies they used.

Leonardo da Vinci wasn't just a painter. He was also a philosopher, an inventor, an engineer, and a writer. His interests also included science, music, math, and architecture. The children were introduced to The Vitruvian Man, which represents da Vinci's thoughts on the proportions of the human body. We used tape measures and recorded our height, the width of our shoulders, the length of one foot, and even the distance from elbow to armpit. (Some of the kids were giggling because they are ticklish!)

Thursday was an especially busy day for us! We celebrated Roald Dahl (the author of James and the Giant Peach) Day by making paper plate peaches, watching a biographical video that included a Roald Dahl interview, and by creating fictional characters. Although Roald Dahl passed away in 1990, we honor him as one of the greatest storytellers of all time. Ms. Steph from the Des Plaines library visited our classroom on Thursday too. (She's another great storyteller!) Mr. Foti visited us in the afternoon to introduce us to the game of Chess. While reading a series of books titled the Story of Pawn, we will learn the rules, board set-up, and discuss strategies used as we play the game.

Notes:

- 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!
- If you have not already done so, please send in a family picture and an extra set of clothes (labeled with your child's name) to be kept at school.
- We have snack time after recess in the afternoon. Please be sure to send a healthy/nut free snack option such as fruit, veggies, yogurt or cheese.
- We have two items on our Wish List that will coincide with our Art History curriculum. (You can cut and paste the links below.) Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my plans for classroom use, or if you're willing to purchase one for our classroom.

<https://www.letsticktogether.com/collections/masterpiece-collection/products/mona-lisa>

<https://www.letsticktogether.com/collections/masterpiece-collection/products/starry-night-small-format>

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

Bridget

Cell: (847) 650-3454

Email: Bridget.Grimaldi@hotmail.com