

09/07/2018

Happy Friday, Room 6 Parents!

We had another great week :) Here are some highlights--

- We filled up the water table this week and experimented with popsicle sticks, foil, cork, paper cups, and wooden spools to create boats. The goal was to create a boat that could hold the most marbles and/or golf balls. The kids tried different structures. Students considered things like how to keep the marbles from rolling off and how to disperse the weight across the structure. I loved hearing classmates cheer each other on with each marble added to their friends' boats!
- This week we completed a series of math video clips about how our brains grow when we make mistakes and how important it is to believe in ourselves through new challenges. Following each of these clips, we had a new math challenge! A favorite challenge involved folding square pieces of paper with given instructions. Students were asked to fold their square to make a triangle, a rectangle, and a smaller square. Then they were challenged to make a smaller triangle (or rectangle or square!) and then an even smaller triangle! This activity was great for fine motor skills and familiarity with characteristics of shapes. When asked to create the smallest possible square, one student said, "Now my square is three dimensional!" We were excited to discover all of the folding had actually created something that looked a lot like a cube!
- We've continued with our story, *Snake and Lizard*. After each chapter, we have been writing a chapter check-in which helps the students process what was most important to them about the story. This is also great literacy practice. In particular, we have been working on using punctuation like exclamation points! when something exciting happens and "quotations" when Snake or Lizard is talking. To dig deeper into *Snake and Lizard*, we have started acting out each chapter. What great actors we have! Acting out the story builds community and confidence while practicing summarizing skills as well.
- Continuing with literacy practice, we have been busy writing in our journals. For example, some students this week chose to write about what life would be like if they were a worm (after we read *Diary of a Worm*) or they invented their own restaurant. I love the creativity in their writing! One restaurant served only tomatoes and another was themed with dinosaurs!
- This week we tried a new recipe--moon sand! After following the recipe (2 cups flour and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup baby oil), each group chose to add varying amounts of water to their sand. This led to questions like, "Is this a liquid or a solid?" and comments like "This is a lot like playdough!" Beyond the literacy, mathematics, and team building benefits, activities like these build excitement about making predictions and then testing those hypotheses. Students went back and forth between adding more water and then adding more flour to see what they could create. Additionally, getting our hands dirty in a bowl of squishy moon sand is a healthy strategy for

emotional regulation! :) There is something so calming about playdough. As a class, we have decided we would like to continue to try different recipes throughout the year- I can't wait to see what we'll make next!

A few quick reminders-

-This Tuesday we will be making our first trip to the bank. Having an account is not a requirement, but if you do have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to reach out.

-Today we sent home picture order forms! Picture day is Tuesday, September 25.

-Next Saturday, September 15th, I'll be putting the Scholastic book order through. If you'd like to order some books, please use our class code: TNNZB





