

Dear Parents,

What is the problem with twin witches?

You never know which witch is which! (Those are homophones!)

As a way to introduce our new novel study, we started this week with a picture book read aloud. "The Humbug Witch" (by Lorna Balian) has a hard time making potions. Her broom won't fly and her laugh comes out as a giggle instead of a scary cackle. The first time we read the book, the children were not shown the illustrations. They had to be active listeners while drawing their own version of the little witch...with a big nose, a crooked black hat, orange gloves, long and red stringy hair, black shoes with a golden buckle, a black shawl, red and white stockings, and a plaid apron. There were so many adjectives! In the end, it is revealed that the witch is really a little girl playing dress up. Then I announced our new novel...drumroll please...The Witches by Roald Dahl. (Obviously, we love his books!)

If you came into our room on Tuesday morning, you would have seen flour, salt, Cream of Tartar, cooking oil, pumpkin spice, mixing bowls, food coloring, measuring spoons, and measuring cups. No, we didn't make a pie (although our room smelled like we did), we made playdough!

The author of The Story of Pawn series that we are reading with Mr. Foti gifted 5 new chess sets to our classroom last week. We talked about the proper form for writing a letter, including a heading, a greeting, body of the letter, closing, and a signature. To show our appreciation, we wrote 'thank you' notes to Ms. Sienna using this format.

Glow Sticks are the perfect material for making polygons! We pushed aside the tables, turned off the lights, and experimented with making shapes that fit together. We covered the floor with a lattice of squares and a lattice of equilateral triangles. We also challenged ourselves to make repeating hexagons...it looked just like a bee's honeycomb!

A glyph (from the word hieroglyphic) is pictorial way to collect data. Each child made a pumpkin glyph answering specific questions, which determined what color stem, and the shape of the eyes, nose and mouth he/she needed to cut out and glue on. Come visit the Room 4 Pumpkin Patch!

Remember the shoeboxes I asked you to send in with your kiddo? This week we started a partner project with Ms. Bia's class. We are making dioramas, recreating

van Gogh's "The Bedroom" painting. This will be an on-going activity, and I can't wait to see how they progress!

On Thursday, along with millions of children across the U.S., we participated in Jumpstart's Read for the Record. This annual campaign was launched over a decade ago to highlight the importance of building early literacy and language skills for children. We read "Maybe Something Beautiful" by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell. A little girl named Mira leads her community members in transforming their neighborhood from being gray and drab to being bright and full of color. Murals were painted on the building walls, spreading cheer throughout the streets. (It reminded us of our artwork spreading cheer throughout our school!)

Notes:

- Be sure to read the Parent Notes that you receive from the office. There are many important dates coming up. There is also information regarding our Halloween plans and our costume/treat guidelines.
(It's also an Early Release day...1:30pm pick-up.)
- Please have your child practice the songs for our Holiday Program.
("Shake it Up" by Train https://youtu.be/n_esVrTTwcg and "Christmas Time" by Bryan Adams <https://youtu.be/57H66U9v8LU>) These links include the lyrics and can be cut/copied.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are approaching. They should really be called Parent/Child/Teacher Conferences...we'd love for your child to join us.
- The Scholastic Book order will be placed on Monday, October 29th.

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

Have a great weekend!

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