

Dear Parents,

What do you get when you combine the wrong end of a telescope, fried mice tails, cooked mice, a roasted alarm clock, the yolk of a gruntle's egg, the claw of a crabcruncher, the beak of a blabbersnitch, the snout of a grobblesquirt, and the tongue of a catspringer? You get the Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker, of course! If your child offers you a piece of chocolate, you may want to think twice before eating it! ;o)

We just started receiving Scholastic News...a nonfiction magazine for kids! The edition we read this week was about learning to overcome challenges and how developing a growth mindset will help us learn new skills. This also relates to our student goal-setting for Parent/Child/Teacher conferences.

We learned a new math game called Dice War. It's a very simple game and all you need is a die and a piece of paper. We use specific score sheets at school, and I'd be happy to send a copy home if your child wants to teach you how to play.

During our library visits over the past couple of weeks, the kids noticed the Election Day posters that were hung by the parking lot door. Many of them also mentioned that they have seen "signs with names on them" on lawns and in front of buildings. (Several students also said that they've seen people wearing "I VOTED" stickers.) In order to learn more about the electoral process, on Tuesday afternoon we turned Room 4 into a polling place and held a Mock Election. We discussed the importance of voting and how even one vote can make a big difference. Then I appointed two candidates for the position of Plato Academy Room 4 Representative...James Henry Trotter and The Grand High Witch. We talked about the ballot, how some people like to keep their choices private while others discuss their preferences, and that each person can only vote once. We tallied our votes and it was unanimous (new vocabulary word)...James was the winner!!

We also turned Room 4 into a Spy Training Center. The kids learned how to be spies by solving coded messages and cracking codes to find treasure. Of course, we had the 007 Theme song playing on repeat in the background.

Seeing James and the Giant Peach on Thursday gave us the opportunity to compare and contrast the picture book, the novel, the movie and the play. I think James and the gang will always be honorary members of our classroom.

Notes:

- Be sure to read the Parent Notes that you receive from the office. There are many important dates coming 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. Please check Parent Notes for the link to sign-up.
- The Scholastic Book order will be placed on Friday, November 16th.
- There has been a case of Strep Throat reported in our classroom. Please watch your child for signs of sore throat...headache, fever, stomachache, rash, swollen and tender neck glands.

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

Have a great weekend!

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