

Dear Parents,

Reading "The Witches" (by Roald Dahl, of course) was the perfect way to get us in the Halloween spirit. Although, according to the book, a REAL WITCH doesn't look like the ones we see as decorations or read about in fairy tales...no pointy hat, no green skin, no evil laugh, no warts. Ask your kiddo to describe witches as they are in the book...and encourage them to use adjectives! Per the kids' request, we did some Reader's Theater this week too. The kids loved playing the part of The Grand High Witch...ask your child to act out the chapter titled "Frizzled Like a Fritter." Watch out...he/she might make you disappear!!

We joined Ms. Bia's class and completed a pumpkin lab investigation. We predicted the height, circumference, and weight (with/without seeds) of a pumpkin. Then we recorded the actual information and compared the results with our original educated guesses. We also used the scientific method to predict how many nails we would need if we were to hammer nails around the circumference of the pumpkin. Then we worked with a partner to hammer the nails, we observed the results, and then we recorded them in our journals.

We made our own Geoboards by adding nails, wooden golf tees, screws, and pushpins to pumpkins. Then the kids made shapes and designs by stretching rubber bands and hooking them onto the different parts. This activity supported skills such as fine and gross motor development, shape exploration, provided literacy opportunities, and allowed the children to observe changes in the pumpkin.

After reading "10 Timid Ghosts" by Jennifer O'Connell, the kids were given a STEM challenge. Since the story is a counting story that ends with one ghost left in a haunted house, the kids were given the task of building a haunted house out of snap cubes. Working with a partner, the children were told that their haunted house had to stand up AND a paper ghost had to fit inside. Each haunted house was an original...it was neat to see what they constructed.

The weather was perfect for our Halloween parade to be held outdoors!! We marched around the school and gathered in the parking lot so we get a better look at everyone's costumes. Plato has such creative kiddos...and parents too, of course! (Be sure to check out the Plato website to see a picture of our students in their costumes!)

While leaving the library on Thursday, we looked out the window and noticed the ground was wet. We thought that it had started raining, but then we noticed red flags, orange cones, and a man in bright yellow wearing a hard hat. He was using a pressure washer to clean the bricks of the building. We talked about the words “force” and “pressure” and compared how the water from the hose he was using comes out differently than the water that comes out of the hoses in our yards at home.

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](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 Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

Have a great weekend!

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