Dear Parents,

While reading Esio Trot we discussed foreshadowing, that authors often give hints and clues about events that are going to happen, and we talked about how we thought the story would end. We were right…Mr. Hoppy and Mrs. Silver got married. There was a class discussion regarding what Mr. Hoppy did, and whether or not it was sneaky and untruthful, or kind and with good intentions. In the end, Alfie the tortoise did end up getting bigger, all he needed was time to grow at his own pace. (It reminded me of our philosophy at Plato.)

Although our book drive was scheduled to end on the 19th, we decided to extend it through January 18th. We have reached the halfway point and have collected 250 books, but we would really like to reach our goal of 500 books. We talked about asking for help from friends and family that we'll see for the holidays and sorting through bookshelves at home over break. The kids are determined to reach our goal…we can do it!

The STEAM activity that we did this week involved a holiday treat…candy canes! We filled four jars, each with a different liquid…vinegar, oil, hot water, and cold water. We hypothesized what we thought would happen, observed, documented what happened, and summarized our results.

This week was mostly filled with holiday cheer, but Wednesday morning was a bit somber. Our beloved class fish, Taco, has passed away. We planned and held a funeral service, shared memories, dug a grave, and buried our finned friend. That afternoon we read "The Tenth Good Thing About Barney" by Judith Viorst, a story about the loss of a pet and coming to terms with the circle of life.

I hope you have a wonderful break filled with fun, laughter, family, friends, and memory-making! Please feel free to have your kiddo email, text, or call me anytime…two weeks is a long time for me to be away from them!! ;o)

Wishing you peace, love, and joy this season!

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