

Dear Parents,

We are all familiar with Roald Dahl's best-selling novels, but he also has so many books that aren't as well known. We are reading "The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me," which is one that we haven't heard of before and is significantly shorter than the others we've read, but we're already intrigued with the characters and the exciting events that have occurred. It may not seem like it now, but spring will be here before you know it...and that means it will also be time for spring-cleaning! Your kiddo can tell you all about a very interesting window cleaning crew that will be willing to help you, as long as you have a tinkle-tinkle tree in your yard. (Who doesn't have at least one of those, right?!);o)

The cleaning company featured in our story is "ladderless," yet they are able to clean the windows on the 6th floor of a palace in England. (Ask your child how!) The word "ladderless" introduced us to the use of suffixes. When 'less' is added to the end of a word, it usually means "without". We brainstormed other words that end in 'less' (fearless, useless, endless), and then listed other suffixes such as 'ly', 'ful', 'able', and 'ness'.

One of the books nominated for the Monarch Award is "Claymates" by Dev Petty. The story is about two lumps of clay and an artist that sculpts them into a wolf and an owl. The artist leaves the studio, and they have some fun when they realize that they can re-shape themselves into different creatures. After reading the story the kids created clay sculptures of their own and found ways to use things that we have in our classroom as tools for adding details. (Watching and listening to the kids gave me some ideas for future art history activities. Stay tuned!)

The kids were introduced to the basic concepts of telling time by first discussing the differences between digital and analogue clocks. The kids were able to list several places where we can find digital clocks, however we focused more on the use of analogue clocks. Analogue clocks lend themselves to the better understanding of time because of the constantly moving hands. The visual impact of the clock face also makes comprehension easier by seeing the sections of the clock and matching this to counting in 5 minute intervals. Analogue clocks and watch faces benefit the visualization of anything related to time, math concepts, or science concepts. Most humans are visual and need pictures to help them better understand what is happening.

We have begun to sort and pack-up the books that have been donated for our book drive. We are far from reaching our goal of at least 500 books, so please encourage your neighbors and friends to help us out if possible. There is a collection box in the school lobby, as well as others throughout the school. The book drive ends on the 19th, so there's still plenty of time for you to check your bookshelves!

Notes:

- Be sure to read the Parent Notes that you receive from the office. There are many important dates and exciting events 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>. The Spanish song, Es Navidad, can be found here https://youtu.be/EFh8kml_0yc.) These links include the lyrics and can be cut/copied.
- Please be sure your child brings weather-appropriate outerwear to school. (If your child wears boots to school, please also send a pair of gym shoes.) Also, please make sure everything is labeled with his/her initials or name.
- Room 4 is hosting a book drive from December 3rd-19th and collecting children's books for Bernie's Book Bank. The books can be new or gently used, and appropriate for kids from birth – 6th grade. Donation boxes will be placed in the lobby and around the school, and our goal is to reach at least 500 books (5-6 books per Plato student). Thank you in advance for your help.
- Many of you have asked me if there is anything we need or want for our classroom. I have asked the kids for their input, and I'm in the process of putting together a Room 4 Wish List.

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

Have a great weekend!

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