January 11, 2019

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope that each of you had a rewarding holiday season.

This week we have continued our reading of William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. As we returned from break, we continued reading Act I Scene V in which Romeo meets Juliet at the House of Capulet masquerade party. This scene was followed by the famous balcony scene in which Juliet professes her love for Romeo and he listens secretly in her orchard. In May there will be a production of West Side Story which was inspired by Romeo and Juliet at the Lyric Opera and we are exploring the feasibility of having your children attend.

In Math, we have been introduced to the 24 game in which students are given 4 numbers and must arrive at 24 using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will also be using the Math Whodunit game Mathological Liar in which players use their math skills to solve a hypothetical crime case. Additionally, we have been working on multiplication and division skills. We will be moving on to factors and multiples next week.

We will soon begin a Negative Afterimage experiment in Science and will complete it next week. Via this experiment, students will learn that what we see is not always what we think we see.

We have also been honing our map skills, locating locations throughout the world using latitude and longitude. We have been exploring characteristics of each state beginning with Georgia as I have obtained a number of resources as a result of my trip to Savannah over the break.

Additionally, we also have begun playing chess a couple of days per week. I feel that the game of chess is extremely valuable in teaching students how to contingency plan, how to be patient and how to focus on a goal. We will all be proficient players by the end of the year.

For those of you wishing to avail yourselves of their many resources or order books from Scholastic, our new class code is: VBJXD.

On a personal note, I’d like to thank everyone in the Plato Academy community for making me feel so welcome and appreciated as I embark upon my latest adventure. I’m very happy to be here!

Dr. Michael