Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued support! While assuming a teaching position in the middle of the school year is always challenging, I feel that my transition to Plato Academy has been as seamless as one could hope.

We are continuing to read William Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. We are currently moving into Act IV and the class looks forward to reading each day. Please ask your child about what he/she has read each day. In this way, you will become familiar with the play if you have yet to be exposed to it and your child will better retain what they have read earlier in the day. We will be attending a performance of West Side Story in May at the Lyric Opera in downtown Chicago which is based on Romeo and Juliet. More details will follow soon.

In Math, we have been diving into the addition and subtraction of fractions. All seems to be going well. Most of your children already know their times tables. If they don’t, they will. You can help by working with them at home, using flash cards, the 24 Game or a method of your choice. As always, your efforts are greatly appreciated. We will be moving on to the addition and subtraction of mixed numbers next week.

We have explored the deforestation of Brazil’s Atlantic Forest and its ramifications in Science. We will continue looking into the issue of climate change throughout the year as it remains one of the seminal issues of our time that impact our children’s future.

In Social Studies we are continuing to learn about map skills, specifically locating the latitude and longitude of cities and countries around the world. We have recently investigated Russia and Austria.

Currently, we are having a shorter recess outside and spending the balance of our allotted time on indoor activities as the weather has been cold as one would expect in the middle of January. As the weather improves, we look forward to spending more time playing in the park.

Thank you for your continued assistance. If there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at: [michaelflynnphd@gmail.com](mailto:michaelflynnphd@gmail.com)

Yours truly,

Dr. Michael L. Flynn