Dear Parents,

We are nearing the end of Romeo and Juliet. Early next week we will have a culminating activity in the form of Romeo and Juliet Jeopardy in which students will answer questions about the play. I’ve been very happy about how your children have been so enthusiastic about reading Shakespeare. I’ve taught Shakespeare for many years and I find that the stories are timeless, that the themes addressed in the literature may still be applied to present day life and that the characters are complex and unpredictable – as is life itself. At the conclusion of Romeo and Juliet, we will be diving into Hamlet, which your children will enjoy as much, if not more than their first venture into Shakespearean literature.

I will also begin working to develop both grammar skills and writing prowess amongst our students. I want them to be able to write with confidence and authority across a series of genres.

In Math we have explored how money is made and how it changes over time in the United States and other countries via DynaMath. We have also moved from determining multiples and factors for numbers to the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers. If possible, please work with your children to develop their understanding of times tables as it will be of great use to them as we move forward.

In Super Science, we have explored Antarctica’s ice sheet so that we might better understand the history of the ancient Earth and how our climate is currently changing.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will be developing an understanding of how the United States government works. Included in our study will be the mechanizations of our government, the rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, how the Supreme Court works, how a bill becomes law and the evolving nature of the United States Constitution.

As always, thank you for making my job easier by working with your children every evening, by reading with them, going over times tables and discussing the issues of the day. I truly appreciate all the support you’ve shown me as I become acclimated to my new home.

Michael L. Flynn PhD