

Dear Parents,

Thank you for helping to make the first few days of school so successful. The kids in Room 4 have been exploring the newly arranged room, getting reacquainted with old friends, and making new ones. Room 4 is ready to SOAR...

Going back to school can present so many different emotions, so on Monday we read a book called "First Day Jitters" by Julie Danneberg. Sarah Jane Hartwell was really anxious about starting her first day at a new school. Ask your kiddo about the surprise ending!

We began an art history lesson focusing on Leonardo da Vinci's Portrait of A Man in Red Chalk. It is thought that this is a self-portrait that da Vinci drew of himself when he was about 60 years old. We experimented with chalk, water in spray bottles, paintbrushes, and our fingers. The kids were surprised to see that the result was similar to water color paints. In order for our classroom to feel more like home, we also drew self-portraits that we will frame and hang on our walls. We also talked about the famous Mona Lisa. Did you know that it took 4 years to complete the Mona Lisa? Have you noticed that she doesn't have any eyebrows?

The children attend yoga class with Ms. Lindsay on Wednesdays. There are numerous benefits of teaching yoga to kids. Yoga helps kids build concentration, increase confidence, manage stress through breathing and meditation, and feel healthy. Those are things that could help up too...maybe she'll host a parent/teacher yoga class someday!

Most of the kids were able to figure out that my favorite food is tacos. I never thought I'd have something in common with dragons, but apparently they love them too. We read "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin. Those poor dragons accidentally ate spicy salsa, and then trouble started! We decided to make our own salsa and had fun cutting tomatoes and green peppers into halves and quarters. We also chopped up cilantro and squeezed in lime juice. I diced the onion beforehand, so that I'd have watery eyes instead of the kids, and I figured chili powder was safer than jalapenos. We made a batch of spicy salsa and a batch of mild salsa. After taste testing the salsas, the four brave students that ate the spicy salsa agreed that we had to change the name to VERY spicy salsa!

We started having Number Talks to encourage the kids to think of more than one way to solve problems. Students are asked to share their strategies so everyone can see that there are MANY ways of seeing the

problem and finding the answer. Ask your students about the hand signals and what they mean.

Notes:

- If you haven't done so already, please send in a family picture to be kept at school.
- Please also send in a complete change of clothes labeled with your child's name. Just in case there's a spill or we get really messy (I love getting messy!), we'd like to have a spare set of clothes on hand.
- The children have snack in the afternoon, so please make sure to send a little something for him/her to have.
- Please label all lunch bags, backpacks, water bottles, etc. We have several duplicates and don't want to have any mix-ups!
- Be sure that you are receiving Office Notes every week. Office Notes are filled with important dates and information that I do not include in my newsletter.
- I have created a classroom email group, so please send a quick reply to this email so that I know you have received it. Also, please let me know if there are any additional email addresses you would like me to include. Email is our main form of communication, so I want to make sure everyone is connected.

I am so excited that our journey is off to such an amazing start. Have a great weekend!

Bridget

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