

Dear Parents,

A new year means new Room 4 adventures. There are already so many things happening in our room...it's hard to believe we've only been back to school for a week.

We welcomed Alfie, a male Russian Tortoise, to our room and have been researching how to properly care for him. He differs from a turtle in that he doesn't swim, so we give him a "bath" a few times a week so he stays properly hydrated. He is an herbivore (vocabulary word), so we've planted Swiss chard and collard green seeds so that we can grow some dark leafy greens for him to eat. We also chopped some other veggies for him to enjoy...yellow bell peppers seem to be his favorite! Some of the kiddos have asked if they can bring food from home to share with Alfie, so please check the list of safe vegetables below.

We also have a new female guppy fish that the class voted to name Matilda, after the main character in our new Roald Dahl novel. We were immediately connected to her since she loves to read just as much as we do. Matilda's parents don't pay much attention to their daughter, except when they are yelling at her. They don't even notice how intelligent she is, they are dishonest, and all they want to do is watch television. Matilda is fed up with the way they treat her and plans different ways to get back at them for being so mean. So far, one of her tricks included superglue and another involved a parrot. Ask your kiddo for the details!

During Art History, the children were introduced to the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Her life was filled with tragedy, suffering from polio as a child and later getting into a horrific bus accident that resulted in spending several months in a body cast. She mainly painted self-portraits that reflected her painful life and frequently painted on a specially designed easel while recovering in bed. Frida Kahlo is often known for her confidence, her floral headbands, and her thick unibrow.

We are approaching the end of our book drive (January 18<sup>th</sup>), and we still have to receive 90 more books in order to reach our goal of 500. Please continue to ask friends and neighbors if they have anything to contribute.

Notes:

- If your child wants to bring in food for Alfie, the following raw vegetables are safe for him to eat: collard greens, mustard greens,

Swiss chard, turnip greens, dandelion greens, bell peppers, zucchini, carrots, and squash. (No kale or spinach.) The kids enjoy “prepping” the veggies, so we can do that at school if necessary.

- Be sure to read the Parent Notes that you receive from the office. There are many important dates and exciting events coming up.
- 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.
- I will be placing a Scholastic Book order on February 1.
- 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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