

Dear Parents,

As we continue to read *Matilda*, we are learning more and more about the evil Miss Trunchbull and some of the terrible things she does to the students at Crunchem Hall Primary School. The kids have made character trait connections and comparisons to those in other Roald Dahl books that we have read and have even noticed some similarities in several of the illustrations.

We are continuing to read the books that have been nominated to win the 2019 Monarch Award. One of the chapter books that we have read introduced us to a new series of stories about magical animals, mystery, science, and adventure. The Zoey and Sassafras series is about a little girl that uses scientific knowledge to help injured animals that come to her for help. We've already read the first and second books in the series, and we have been inspired to conduct experiments like those in the stories. Using the Scientific Method, we added several natural preservatives (oil, sugar, salt, and vinegar) to pieces of bread, and we are observing them to see which will prevent mold from growing. Over the next several days, we will be comparing and documenting the results.

Did your kiddo tell you that a volcano erupted in our classroom? We made a volcano out of Plaster of Paris and then experimented with an acid-base reaction that resulted in creating carbon dioxide.

While painting "The Frame", Frida Kahlo seemed to be experimenting with "mixed medium". The self-portrait of Frida and the blue background are painted on a sheet of aluminum while the boarder of birds and flowers is painted on the back side of a glass that lays on top of the portrait. We made our own versions of the painting, using Sharpie markers on a laminating sheet and inserting a sketch made from our photographs.

After using 3,996 stickers and a color key coded 40" x 36" grid, we completed our group mosaic. The kids were right...the end result is an image of the Mona Lisa! This was a great collaborative activity, and many of the other teachers and students visited our classroom to admire our poster.

Notes:

- 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.

As always, please feel free to call, email, or text me with any questions or concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Bridget Cell: (847) 650-3454 Email: Bridget.Grimaldi@hotmail.com