

Happy Friday Parents!

Another wonderful week of learning, playing, exploring, and dancing! Have you heard the news? We're following the yellow brick road!

Highlights:

We began reading our new chapter book The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum and we're super excited about it! So far, we have read about the cyclone *new word alert!* that hit Dorothy's house and picked her up then landed her in a magical place. She just began her journey to visit the great and powerful wizard in hopes of getting her back to Kansas. Scarecrow is the only one accompanying her now and he is hoping to get some brains from the wizard! If you would like to follow along, we are reading the 100th year anniversary edition (there's a lot of different ones out there so feel free to come take a look at ours). There are endless possibilities and benefits when reading a chapter book together. It's not an activity cut and dry for listening and writing purposes, but rather students are simultaneously strengthening their comprehension skills, building their vocabulary, and of course inclusion of other curricular areas. For example, with this book we are learning about the geography of the United States (Kansas in relation to Illinois), measuring/math (how far is Kansas? how many miles? can we use a yard stick to measure that? etc.) moral lessons (the individual stories of each character), how various weather can effect us in different regions, and so much more.

Continuing our exploration on weather, we have been busy researching and experimenting all about hurricanes, tornadoes, thunderstorms, hail, and earthquakes. Did you know that the United States has the most tornadoes than any other country or that India is the wettest country in the world? We continued working on our weather models a bit this week and hopefully will be finished next week. Stay tuned! We're still in search of 2-liter bottles so if any of you have one or two, we would gladly accept them:) Please keep in mind, if your child has anything interesting weather related they want to share with the class, encourage them to bring it for show and tell!

There were finally some changes to document about our tree for this month! Ask your child how it differs from last month and November and what predictions they have made for February and why.

Reminders:

- Book orders due TONIGHT!
- If you and your child have not done so already, please complete and return their reading logs on Monday.
- Don't forget about bank deposit Fridays!

- Ms. Anna W.'s class has an amazing service project happening from now until February 7th. They are collecting new and gently used children's clothing in sizes 4-14 for the Kid's Pantry.

No matter how many winters we've lived with temperatures this cold, it never quite seems easier to deal with am I right?! With that being said, please be careful these next few days/week with the dangerous cold! Stay warm, enjoy your time indoors with your families, and see you all Monday!

-Ms. Anna