

Dear Parents,

The weather last week made us feel a bit scrotty (that's one of many silly words that Roald Dahl made up), but this week we had so much fun that you could often hear us churgle with laughter. (That's another made-up Roald Dahl word!)

We have partnered with Ms. Leslie (a former Plato teacher that we know and love) to participate in a pen pal activity with the students in her current class. We have already received letters from them, and we are in the process of writing back. We are focusing on content, using proper letter-writing format and addressing the envelope appropriately. We are also hoping to plan a get-together with our new friends in the spring.

We finished reading Matilda this week, and now we're putting together our Chapter Check-Ins to make our own versions of the book. It turns out that Miss Trunchbull is Miss Honey's (evil) aunt, and Matilda used her powers to scare Miss Trunchbull into leaving Crunchem Hall for good. In fact, she will never be seen by Matilda or Miss Honey again. Matilda's parents also left forever...escaping to Spain since the police were after Mr. Wormword for selling stolen cars. It didn't take much convincing, but Matilda's parents agreed to let Matilda live with and be raised by Ms. Honey.

We celebrated the 100th day of school by sharing our "100 Items" collections. The kids were so creative with their choices...we had everything from grains of rice to puzzle pieces. We weighed each bag, charted the weights so we could compare them, and discussed the concept volume. This led us to a STEAM Challenge...to build a bridge using straws, tape, and notecards that would hold the bag of 100 pennies. We started by looking at pictures of bridges from around the world and discussing what makes them strong and stable.

Ms. Demetria, Mr. Dan, and Ms. Lauren from the National Hellenic Museum came to see us this week. They told us that in ancient Greece, storytelling was done by mouth, through the use of pottery, and by acting them out. We learned that legends are a mix of mythical stories and history. We also had the opportunity to paint using the colors of traditional Greek pottery...orange, black, and white.

Some of the kiddos have asked if they can bring in Valentine's Day cards or small gifts to pass out to their friends on Thursday. We have 9 kids in our class...Aarya, Dante, Estelle, Janki, Luke, Mia, Nathan, Soti, and Wyatt. If you're

going to send something to share, we encourage you to send non-candy items, like stickers or pencils. Valentine's Day is also Pajama Day, and the children will also have a PTO sponsored lunch.

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.
- The kids are DESPERATE to make slime. Please let me know if you'd be willing to donate a bottle of Tide detergent for us to use. (We have plenty of glue at school.)

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

Have a great weekend! Stay warm!

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