

April 5, 2019

Dear Room 5 Parents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful week! I sure had a wonderful first week with your kiddos! The Ocean study has officially taken off as we "Dive into room 5". ☺

Community Building!

This week we have really focused on new beginnings and getting to know each other even better. Room 5 has already made such strides in becoming a team. We have spent a lot of time emphasizing choosing kind words, making good choices and being helpful. The class has done great with their "classroom jobs" and they seem to be enjoying helping out too! They are walking respectfully both together as a class and independently in the hallways. We have been discussing the importance of walking safely outdoors and the kids have been doing great on our walks to and from the park! I'm so proud of them!

Literacy!

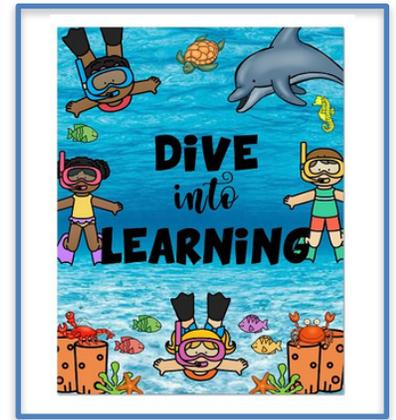
We've read a few fun short stories this week! The kids' favorite, "There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Shell" was very entertaining! Be sure to ask your child about it! We also started a new classroom novel called, "Nim's Island". This is a chapter book that is about a girl who lives on an island and has lots of adventures with her ocean friends. We will continue with this novel by reading each day, discussing the story, analyzing the characters, summarizing and learning new vocabulary words each week.

In addition, students have been identifying and writing numerous ocean words this week. They enjoy seeing these words on our ocean word wall. We also had a wonderful visit from Ms. Stephanie who sang songs and read a few books aloud with us.

Our students are improving with writing and identifying their names! Each morning, students sign in to answer our morning question. They are also practicing reading skills by reading all of the labeled items in our classroom and the morning question each day. My goal is for all of the children to see themselves as readers! We will be going to the library as a class each week on Tuesday to check out books for our classroom and independent reading time!

Math & Science!

Students have been writing an ocean word (from the morning question) and making bar graphs that display the answer to the question. Each day they have grown tremendously in their ability to tally the results from the morning question and graph it as a bar graph. Also, with ten students in our class they have been figuring out different ways to make the number ten! Way to go room 5! A new classroom game, "sea" 10, has been a favorite as well for some students. This game works on memory and numeracy skills. You can create a version of this game at home by simply using a



deck of cards with numbers 1-9, flipping them upside down and taking turns trying to find “matches” (two cards that equal ten).

In our water table this week was sand, seashells, starfish & sand dollars. Our class has had a lot of fun playing with this table! Ms. Bridget's husband, Larry let us borrow ocean specimens. Students have been able to look at them in jars and write/draw about in their journals. We are also estimating and making predictions which, as you know, is a very important step in the scientific method!

The students also have opportunities each day to build with blocks and play board games to enhance their engineering, numeracy and strategic thinking skills!

In addition, we will be visiting the bank each Wednesday to make deposits for all students who opened a student savings account. On bank days, please send your child's deposit in a zip-lock bag with his/her name on it. A variety of coins or bills is preferred so that we can practice our money counting skills!

Music!

In music, we have chosen & started to practice our end of the year song. It's, “Upside Down” by Jack Johnson, from the Curious George soundtrack. I have attached a copy of the lyrics to this email to practice with your child. We will of course be singing our song a little each day in the classroom. ☺ Here is a link to the music video:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqUdl4AIDF0>

With lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrSNT9B7ZA8>

Quick Reminders for Room 5!

- Tuesdays: Library day
- Wednesdays: Bank day
- We are still collecting box tops so send those any time!
- Please do not send toys from home with your child. We have plenty to play with in our classroom!

I want to take this time out to thank you guys so much for sending in those surveys I sent home before break. It was so nice to gain some insight on the kiddos further interests and gain your input! Please enjoy a few pictures from the week below!

Overall, I know there has been a lot of change for our class and I am just so proud of how quickly the kiddos have adapted to these changes. I am really enjoying spending time with our class and I feel very excited to be a part of the Plato Family! I can't thank you enough for making me feel so welcome! I know we will have a fabulous rest of the year! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, comments or ideas.

I hope you have a fabulous weekend! Thanks for everything!

Love,
Ms. Katlyn

Pictures from the week!



