

Welcome back to school!

Welcome to a brand new year, 2020!



Saying Goodbye to the old year was fun and rewarding. Visiting the retirement home and Motol hospital was a good experience. The children agreed we should sing carols there again or do something similar next Christmas.



Saying Hello to a new year means even more fun! There are some new projects we will be embarking on.

In **Math**, we have been reviewing our multiplication and division skills. Since the children are more confident reciting the facts, we are practicing applying those skills to word problems. However, they always ask if they can finish their math works whenever they have free time. Does that mean that they love Math now?

We will finish studying **space and planets** and everything in the sky. We did some research on groups of stars and how stars have fascinated the human race for thousands of years. We saw how the ancient Greeks integrated their knowledge of stars and constellations (science) into beautiful mythical verses (language arts) we still enjoy today. Next week on Friday, we will wrap up this theme by visiting Planetarium Praha.

A brand new Social Studies topic - **Native American history** (social organization & culture, early settlement, tolerance and westward movements) will begin on Monday January 20th. The children are excited to learn about the Native Americans and our take-home projects. (I remember how this class, as 2nd graders, told me how they looked forward to this very topic in Grade 3.)

A new year, but still the same old ways of doing things. I would still like to see the children read on RazKids, especially the **Social Studies and Science theme based non-fiction books/articles**. Research shows a significant all-around improvement in the command of the English language in children who have spent some time reading. I am happy that the children read fiction books at home. Non-fiction reading is equally important. It requires different, but essential skills to decipher. As I always say, **reading is the key to success!** It will only get harder but more fun as they climb higher on the educational ladder!

Have a great weekend.

Ratchanee