

September 5, 2016

Hello Upper School Families and Students,

It hardly feels like we had school last week at all. There were so many people absent due to this yucky virus that has been going around. It feels like we were playing catch-up all week and will probably feel the same this week as students return and make up work. Hopefully this sickness has run its course and we will have healthy students the rest of the year. It is really hard to make up the hands-on work.

Thursday, September 8 is our fall corporation meeting. This begins at 5:30 with a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share as well as your own utensils and plates to use. The school will be providing disposable plates, but this always makes me uncomfortable as it does not really seem in keeping with the CNS commitment to the environment. We still do not have volunteers to man the playground during the meeting and really do need some help with this. I would also encourage you to make your voices heard at the corporation meeting. Many of you have brought concerns to me, but unfortunately when I share them, they are often interpreted as my thoughts and ideas even though I make it clear that you are the ones who are concerned. To ensure that you all have the voice you deserve, please speak up and let the rest of the corporation and the school board know your ideas. As a corporation, you are Carbondale New School.

This week in science we will be working more on our microscope unit. Students will be learning how to prepare various types of slides based on the materials they wish to view. They will also learn how scientists accurately depict what they are seeing for others.

In social studies we will learn more about the indigenous peoples of North America. We are currently reading a historical fiction novel about the Iroquois for read aloud as well as learning more

about other native peoples. On Wednesday through Friday, Shannon Green will be joining us to share her passion for social studies. She will be working with the students on critical thinking skills which will help them in thinking about and interpreting what they are learning and reading.

In language arts we will be learning vocabulary words dealing with these North American indigenous peoples. We are also going to start reviewing the writing process and then will move on to learning about different types of writing. Students will also be meeting with me to set individual goals based on their own writing. We will also continue practicing cursive. My hope is that everyone should have a basic knowledge of cursive by the end of September. Then everything turned in will be in cursive or typed. Remind your students that everything turned in except math and tests must be completed in pen.

I have been talking to Laurie and she is enjoying her math students as much as I am enjoying mine. My class is still working on some basics and review, but will head into chapter two this week. This will mainly be a review of fractions, decimals and operations with these. As we move ahead in our studies, you will find that there will be more widespread assignments over the members of the class as we work to meet their needs. For this reason, it is incredibly important that all students write everything down in their bullet journals.

We have done some brief mini-lessons on bullet journals, but this week we will start emphasizing them more and more. One reason that we switched from planners to bullet journals was to encourage students to write more about what they have to do and what they have done without the limiting space in each daily planner square. They also give students a creative way to express themselves.

Another reminder is to let me know if you are attending the mediation training on September 14. So far I have only heard from one person that they plan to attend. It will be a very beneficial class

and I hope to see you all there. Please remember to let us know if you are coming so we have the necessary materials prepared.

Finally, thanks to all the parents who have come in to talk to me to ask questions and clarify how the class is running. Please remember to try to set a time in advance so our meetings do not take away from my times with the kids. Also, thank you to Agent's family for donating all the copies of *A Young People's History of the United States*. This freed up the money I had spent to replace some well-loved and tattered books in the library and buy a couple of new ones to meet the preferences I am seeing in some of our new students. I also want to thank Jack's and Katy's families for donating a much needed white board and bulletin board to the school as well as classroom supplies to students in our group. I know that you all give and donate to our school daily and I am very appreciative, so I am sorry if I have missed someone. Anyone with some extra time right now? We have some serious needs for weeding to count toward your service hours. (Remember to record them in the notebook next to the directors' office.

Thanks for being the best group of parents, grandparents, significant others, and students ever.

Best wishes,

Carla

P.S. Be sure to read the Corporation Newsletter for more information on upcoming events and fundraisers.