

January 9, 2017

Hello Everyone,

My heart was so full last week to have my students back. This week will be even better as they should all be back because everyone in the class should be back every day. As I told you last week, we worked a great deal on test taking skills last week. Even the students who had never taken a standardized test before did a great job at keeping their answers in the right bubble and that is where most kids have had difficulties before.

The six seventh and eighth graders will be taking the PSAT for 8th/9th grades on Wednesday, January 11 at 8:30. The test will be given at the Unity Point School and is required for Carbondale Community High School (CCHS). Gwen LeBeau and Robin Cardwell-Mullins have offered to drive the students to Unity Point and back. Students will not need to take anything with them because calculators and pencils are being provided by CCHS. Please make sure your student gets plenty of sleep the night before and has a good breakfast that morning. It would be best if they arrive a little early at class that morning so they will not feel they are being rushed right out the door to go to the test. We will be leaving no later than 8:10 to make sure everyone arrives at Unity Point when required.

I am becoming concerned that students have not been checking out books as required. Several of our more popular books are missing from the library and have not been checked out. Many parents have donated to ensure we have an excellent library, as have I. We can only maintain this and update it if students follow procedures. Please encourage your children to check out and return books properly. This will be a big discussion on Monday morning as I am greatly concerned about the missing books. Several books that I know are fairly new have not been treated properly and this will also be discussed.

In social studies we will be working out of our texts to bring us up to where we are in the Howard Zinn book. Last week we studied geography and had a test on Friday over general geography terms and locations.

We are going to continue with our unit on standardized testing this week during our ELA time. Last week we covered general test taking tips and how to fill out the "bubble forms" and this coming week we will be taking tests at our own levels with timers. Since I am using real tests, it should be interesting to see how the kids score against national norms.

The next school board meeting is on Thursday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m. for those of you who wish to attend. Remember that Friday, January 13 is a noon dismissal with childcare available. There is no school on Monday, January 16.

Please remember to check your mailboxes. Another reminder is that all eighth grade parents need to contact Robin Cardwell-Mullins as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Carla

Wish List:

Gift Cards: Barnes & Noble, Petco, Walmart, and Amazon for the pets and library.