

January 22, 2017

Hello Everyone,

Although last week was only four days, we packed it full. I do want to remind you that students aren't allowed to take their phones on the playground except on Friday after school or downstairs if they have indoor recess. Some of the students have commented that they need their phones with them because parents require it. Please know that you can contact me or the office if you need to get in touch with your student during the day. Phones can be used as tools for calculating and researching, but unfortunately, they more often act as distractions. We are doing our best to eliminate distractions and increase focus.

There will be POW and work folders going home on Monday. Remember these must both be back by Friday. Students are working on their vocabulary list. They have selected the words from books they are reading and then found the meanings. They have also typed them all into a Google Document that they can all access. Friday, they wrote sentences with their own words and then had to identify the type of sentences and the main parts of the sentences. This week they will be putting the words into alphabetical order. (After going through the library, I am convinced this is necessary.) We will begin other word study with them after that.

Also, last week we did a research source and notes check and turned in a rough outline. We will learn more about formal outlines this week and outline part of our science chapter to better understand how this works. In science, we have studied the skeletal system and bones. We have watched videos on how bones break and heal. We will review bones and learn the names of specific bones and then move on to the muscular system.

In social studies we are moving into the administration of one of my favorite presidents. We are combining work in our text, social studies newspapers and videos. Once we catch up chronologically with the Howard Zinn that will also be included. We are talking about the Louisiana Purchase and had an interesting discussion about imminent domain. When we finish our current read aloud book, we will be reading *MacPherson's Lament* by Sharyn McCrumb which also deals with imminent domain along with the Civil War. It is a book that I have shared many times with my classes and they have always enjoyed its humor even while learning about history.

The seventh and eighth graders are finishing their study of ratios, proportions, and indirect measurement this week. We are then moving on to a study of percent. Math will start to move a bit more quickly through the concepts for the rest of the year as they build more and more on previous learning. The younger math students have been working diligently with Ms. Laurie on prime factorization with exponents.

I am expecting a lot more of the students this half of the year in both their work and organization. I am still having some problems with missing library books. Gwen LeBeau has graciously offered to come in to help with the library starting on Monday afternoon. I am very grateful to her help or any assistance from our families. There are volunteer opportunities available to knock those service hours out before the end of the year. We have a volunteer to help teach PE on Monday and Wednesday. We still need people to do this on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. One thing I am looking for right away is someone to help score the ITBS tests we took. There are simple parts to this and also some more difficult ones.

We have lots of things that need to be cleaned in the building that aren't covered in the regular janitorial hours. Do you have a special skill or talent, you would like to share with our students? We are working on revitalizing our after school program and adding activities and clubs. Contact us.

Hershey went to the vet on Saturday and as near as we can tell, he is suffering from some sort of allergy. They could have run other tests but I decided to take the least costly option which cost me \$225. I am asking for donations to help cover these and other pet costs. Quags food and lights runs \$50-60 each month and Hershey's litter and food is \$85-100 per month. This is just the general amount we pay each and every month without additional vet bills. Both of these pets actually belong to CNS, but right now except for a few generous parents who have contributed gift cards (thank you) I am footing the bill. Anyway, I am asking for some help with this expense since we no longer have parents who are vets who will do this at no charge.

We are looking for an ear thermometer for the office to make sure we have accurate temperatures when the kids aren't feeling well.

Also, if any of you have locking filing cabinets in good shape you would like to donate to the school, please let me know. Donations of copy paper is always gratefully accepted by the office as well.

Thanks to all of you who do so much for our classroom and school.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, January 26: 4:00 p.m. is the Finance Committee meeting

5:00 p.m. is a Love & Logic Q & A and organizational meeting

6:00 p.m. is a Communications Committee meeting

Thursday, February 2: 6:00 p.m. School Board meeting

Friday, February 17: Noon Dismissal with Childcare

6:45-8:45 is the Valentines Dance

Monday, February 20: Holiday, No school and no childcare

I am looking forward to another busy and productive week with my kids. Hope your week is as sunny as possible.

Best wishes,

Carla

Wish List:

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