

February 23, 2018

It has been another crazy week on the southern Illinois weather roller coaster: rain, sunshine, exceptionally warm weather, snow, sleet, freezing temperatures, all in the last week. Right now everything seems to be a muddy mess, so you might want to make sure your students have mud boots and extra clothes in case they need them.

Unfortunately, we have some bad news about our scheduled field trip for next week. The Carson Center emailed me to let me know that the show had been cancelled, so our field trip is also cancelled. We will try to find another activity later in the spring when the weather is more consistent. Students have been asked to come up with ideas. Thank you so very much to all the parents who had planned to drive that day for us. We will keep you updated on what happens.

Students have started working on their research reports and we will probably use next Thursday to work on that and some hands-on ancient Greece projects since we will no longer be going to Paducah. We will still be celebrating Read Across America Day next Friday with lots of reading and pajamas. I have also asked the students to find a favorite story to read to the PreK/K for a brief time during that day.

Student grade reports are all completed and will be emailed on Monday. There will be hard copies of the art and P.E. checklists placed in family mailboxes on Monday as well, so be sure to check your mailbox and your email.

Our Korean visitors have returned home. Next week we will have two other students who will visit on separate days to see if they might be interested in starting school with us this year or next.

In science, we will finish our unit on volcanoes on Monday and then move on to the study of soil and erosion. We made owls this week and we will paint them next week and also work on other aspects of daily life in ancient Greece.

Reading, writing, and research will be devoted to our research reports and I will be expecting to see lots of notes that will eventually turn into great reports. In math, we are covering as many topics as we have students. It really keeps me and Annie on our toes.

We are also emphasizing to the students that their success and learning are up to them and their responsibility. We also continue to discuss the advantage of having a positive mindset.

Please encourage your children to sign up for the talent show. It is always great fun.

Best wishes,

Carla

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 2: "Read Across America" and Pajama Day

Monday March 5: Spirit Week: "Mismatch Monday"

Tuesday, March 6: Spirit Week: "Tie-Dye Tuesday"

Love and Logic Playground Training at 3:00 (RSVP required)

Wednesday, March 7: Spirit Week: "Whacky Wild Animal Wednesday"

Thursday, March 8: Spirit Week: "Throwback Thursday"

Love and Logic Playground Training at 3:00 (RSVP required)

Friday, March 9: Spirit Week: "Fancy Friday"

Talent Show at 1:30

March 11-16: Spring Break

Thursday, March 22: School Board Meeting at 6:00

Thursday & Friday, March 22-23: PreK/K Used Book Sale

Vocabulary Words for the Week of February 26, 2018

1. **source:** documentation of origin of information
2. **plagiarism:** the act of presenting someone else's ideas as your own
3. **paraphrase:** using your own words to state someone else's ideas
4. **thesis statement:** a statement of the purpose, intent, or main idea of an essay.
5. **quotation:** exact words of an author enclosed in quotation marks
6. **bibliography:** list of sources used by the author
7. **title page:** first printed page in a book giving the title of the book, the author's name, the publisher's name, and the place of publication
8. **outline:** a general sketch, account, or report indicating only the main features of a book, subject, or project
9. **keyword:** a word used as a reference point for finding other words or information
10. **summarize:** to present the main points of an issue in a shortened form.
11. **introduction:** opening paragraph that gains the reader's interest and identifies the thesis

12. **conclusion:** part of the essay that ties the main points together and answers any remaining questions; it often restates the thesis

13. **transitions:** words or phrases that connect or tie ideas together

14. **index:** an alphabetical list of all the topics covered in a book with the page number(s) on which each topic is covered

15. **expository:** writing to inform

Requirements for the Upcoming 2018 Research Project with Due Dates

As a class, we discussed the requirements for our research project that we are presenting at the May Open House. We have set individual deadlines to help the students meet these requirements. Deadlines will be listed at the end of this.

First, all students will complete a research project. The research project includes a typed research paper in MLA format, a project display and board, an electronic presentation, and an oral presentation.

Students will determine what topic they wish to write about. It is recommended that students pick a topic that they are really interested in, as they will be spending most of their homework time over the next three months working on this project. Students have brainstormed ideas in class and were to turn in a written notice of their topic today.

During the rest of February and March we will be having classes on word processing, MLA format, outlines, taking notes, paraphrasing, plagiarism, types of sources, and preparing a Works Cited page. By the middle of March, we will be working on editing and revising our work. In April we will work more on types of electronic presentations, oral presentations and preparing a visually appealing and attention-grabbing display. In May, students will further polish their projects and presentations and present their research to their classmates.

The minimum page requirements for the typed paper are:

- 4th grade: One page
- 5th grade: Three pages
- 6th grade: Five pages
- 7th grade: Ten pages
- 8th grade: Fifteen pages

There is not maximum page limit for any grade. The font should be Times New Roman or a similar font in 12. The paper must also be double spaced and meet all other MLA requirements.

The students have decided on the following due dates for each graded aspect of their project:

- February 20-22: Brainstorm and Find Topic
- February 23: Submit Topic Choice
- March 2: Note/Progress Check
- March 7: General Outline Due

March 19: Peer Editing of First Draft

March 20: Peer Editing of First Draft

March 26: First Draft Turned in to Carla

March 26: First Draft of Works Cited Page Due

April 9: Second Draft Due & Peer Editing

April 10: Peer Editing

April 10: Second Draft to Carla

April 16: Carla returns Second Draft

May 2: Final Draft of Paper is Due

May 7: Final Board, Electronic Presentation, and Oral Report will be ready to present to the class.

May 10: Open House: All students must attend to present their research project to the public.