

19 January 2019

Dear Upper School family and friends,

Can you believe all the snow—so pretty. I went in to feed Hershey this afternoon and ended up in the midst of the blowing snow and whiteout conditions. I had stopped at Murphysboro Walmart and nothing was happening. When I came out of the store my car was covered in snow and I still had more errands to run. I am just glad that I have a lot of snow driving experience. Actually, I would rather drive in snow than rain.

Kids did great on vocabulary over the week with tests, composing sentences, etc. Next week, we will use Vocabulary/Spelling City again. Students will need to do five of the ten assigned tasks. There are only 15 words since Monday is a holiday. The short week is also the reason there will be no Problem of the Week (POW) or graded work folder going home. (Maybe those kids who forgot theirs last week can get caught up for the following week. Both graded work folders and POWs will go out again on Monday, January 28.

This week we will start reviewing manuscript/print writing for those times when it might be more appropriate than cursive. Again, readability will be emphasized, and students must still turn in all work in ink, in cursive, or typed. We will be learning more about ancient Japan by writing haikus and making poetry fans. If we have time and the weather cooperates, we may make some wishing trees. We will also finish our carp kites and hang them from the ceiling.

In science we will be moving into a study of forces and Newton's Laws. There will be several experiments for students to work on independently while I can work in small groups with the different math levels.

In math, we are covering a lot of concepts because of our different math levels. The fourth graders are working on multiplication and fifth graders are working on division. Sixth graders will be working on multiplying and dividing decimals. Seventh grade students finish up their unit on rational numbers and move into studying ratios and proportional relationships. The

eighth graders will be continuing their study of linear, proportional, and nonproportional relationships by learning to write equations from tables.

I have attached this week's list of vocabulary and definitions and also have upcoming schedules listed.

Best wishes,

Carla

Dates to Remember

January 21: Holiday-No School; No Childcare

January 23: All School Meeting at 8:30

January 24: School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

January 30: NAEP Testing for Eighth Grade Students

Wish List: Nothing at the moment

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22-25, 2019

1. **comedian:** is a person who seeks to entertain an audience by making them laugh. This might take many forms including jokes, satirical observations, amusing situations, acting foolish (as in slapstick) or employing prop comedy. (noun, singular)

2. **resemblance:** a similarity in appearance (noun, singular)

3. **boulder:** a detached and rounded or worn rock, especially a large one. (noun, singular)

4. **distraction:** an object that directs one's attention away from something else (noun, singular)

5. **scenery:** the general appearance of the natural environment, especially when it is beautiful (noun, singular)

6. **surround:** to enclose on all sides; encompass (verb)

7. **bewildered:** completely puzzled or confused; perplexed. (adjective)

8. **rodent:** any of an order (Rodentia) of relatively small gnawing mammals (such as a mouse, squirrel, or beaver) that have in both jaws a single pair of incisors with a chisel-shaped edge. (noun, singular)

9. **buffalo:** a large shaggy-maned North American bovid (B. bison) that has short horns and heavy forequarters with a large muscular hump and that was formerly abundant on the central and western plains (noun, singular)

10. **pivot:** to turn or rotate on a point (verb)

11. **flinch:** to withdraw or shrink from as if in pain (verb)

12. **magical:** anything that uses unusual means (such as charms or spells) to have supernatural power over natural forces (adjective)

13. **scattered:** lacking a definite plan, purpose, or pattern. (adjective)

14. **molar:** a tooth with a rounded or flattened surface adapted for grinding (noun, singular)

15. **hygiene:** conditions or practices (as of cleanliness) conducive to health (noun, singular)