

March 14, 2019

Hello Upper School Families and Friends,

I hope that each and every one of you have had a restful and fun break this past week. I know that I had a to-do list that was longer than most people can imagine. The universe had other plans for my vacation though and I have not been able to do any tasks on my list. I fell down some icy steps at school resulting in some painful bruises and then I had a car accident because I was so tired. This resulted in more bruises and have also ended up with a broken wrist, so I am being forced to take it easy and rest. I have not replaced my laptop as yet and the cast keeps pressing extra letters and spaces on this desktop keyboard so that is really holding me back as well, but we are doing the best we can. Please overlook any crazy spellings, spacings, or other anomalies.

The most important thing that I want to be sure to get out to you all is my list of those of you who will be driving on April 10 to Cahokia Mounds. Please let me know if any of this information is incorrect so I can get students assigned to cars.

Michelle Roberts: Can take three students

Matthew Rosenkoetter: Can take four students

Heather Wepsiec: Can take three students

Jen Smoot: Can take four students

Patty Herman: Can take three students

Bryan Phillips: Can take two students\*

Atheana Meadows: Can take three students\*

Courtney Haddick: Can take the third graders

*\*We don't require these parents to transport, but we would love to have you along.*

All parents who drive should keep track of their mileage and gas so the office can get you a tax/donation letter for your 2019 tax return.

This is a long drive so we will need to leave at 8:30 exactly to make it to the site in time for our reservation in the interpretive center. Students need to bring picnic lunches, snacks, and drinks. Everyone should be dressed for the weather that day since much of the trip activities are outside. **Please note that no food, drinks, backpacks, pencils, notebooks, gum, etc. are allowed in the Interpretive Center.** There is a gift shop so students may wish to bring some cash to purchase items there. There will be no charge billed to student accounts for this field trip, but please donate to the Cahokia site if you enjoy the visit.

Students will be asked to share their field trip experience with the whole school at our Wednesday morning all-school assembly on April 24. Take pictures to show other classes.

It is my intention to go along on this trip, but I cannot guarantee that until after I talk to my orthopedic surgeon on Monday morning. Even if I can't go with you, everything is arranged and we have amazing parents to accompany our students and make sure they have a good time and learn about the Mississippian culture.

I have been very impressed with how hard all the students have been working on their research projects. This may be the best project year ever. Student-led parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 11 and April 12. Please contact me to get a time that works for you. We can do conferences earlier than that (but not on April 10) or the following week. I will also try to accommodate your schedules as much as possible. If you wish to discuss your student's grades or work before the conference, please call so we can do that.

There is a full 20-word vocabulary list that I already sent out for next week. We will also have graded work folders and *Problems of the Week* going home. Students will have assignments in Spelling City as well as a math assignment daily, their RWR for their projects, and two science and two social studies assignments each week. The science and social studies assignments are going to be more hands-on. We will also continue our grammar minilessons.

I am looking forward to seeing all my students on Monday morning. I will keep you informed about surgery and recuperation times.

Best wishes,

Carla

Here is a list of some of our upcoming events:

March 20: All School Assembly & Green Day

March 21: List of Sources for Research Project Due

March 28: First Draft of Research Paper due for peer editing

March 28: Panera Fund Raiser from 4:00-8:00 p.m. (requires voucher)

March 28: School Board Meeting at Panera at 6:00

April 10: Cahokia Field Trip (Departure at 8:30 a.m.)

April 11- 12: Student-led Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Vocabulary

1. anxious: distressed and extremely uneasy (adjective)
2. bitter: having an extremely acrid, astringent or disagreeable taste (adjective)
3. chamberlain: chief officer in the household of a king (noun)
4. contradict: to deny the truth of (verb)
5. deadpan: an impassive matter of fact manner, style, or expression (adjective)
6. dystopia: an imaginary place which is depressingly wretched and whose people live a fearful existence (noun)
7. edible: fit to be eaten (adjective)
8. elegance: refined grace; restrained beauty or style
9. enthusiastic: filled with or marked with excitement and energy (adjective)
10. fatigue: extreme weariness or exhaustion (noun)
11. fiendish: extremely cruel or wicked (adjective)
12. greet: to address with an expression of kind wishes (verb)

13.hammock: a swinging couch or bed (noun)

14.imagine: to form a mental image (verb)

15.leap: to spring free from; to pass abruptly from one state or topic to another (verb)

16.lone: having no company; solitary (adjective)

17.median: being in the middle (adjective)

18.mournful: sad or sorrowful (adjective)

19.pale: deficient in color or intensity of color (adjective)

20.quest: a chivalrous enterprise in medieval romance; an adventurous journey (noun)