

Good morning!

I first wanted to quickly remind parents to make sure students have jackets/warm clothes either in their lockers or with them when they come to school. I was shocked when I looked at the forecast! I have a few extra sweatshirts in the classroom that will help out in a pinch, but no extra gloves, hats, boots, socks, etc.

This week, we finished up another chapter in science. Our next unit focuses on viruses and bacteria. In social studies, we began working on early Portuguese, Spanish, and English explorers. I am assigning each student a short report on one explorer from each of these categories. They will present them to the class next week. I like encouraging the class to informally present reports to the class so they get comfortable speaking in front of a group. To date, everyone has been very willing to present information and usually, they are competing to go first! I am incorporating more writing into both of these subjects. Frequently, the social studies lessons will include a question I can use for a creative writing-type assignment, so you will likely see more of those assignments coming home. In addition to these assignments, we are continuing grammar, which focuses on many fantastic elements to improve writing skills.

We are nearing the end of *A Wrinkle in Time*. I am going to try something new with our next book. I am going to assign 4th and 5th grade *James and the Giant Peach*. For 6th-8th grade, we are reading *The Call of the Wild*. I am going to have students read as a group, respectively. We will continue with the comprehension packets for each novel. In addition, we are still reading poetry daily. Next week's poet is E.B. White.

Please remember that the Pre K-Kindergarten classes are collecting new pajamas until November 25th. Sign up sheets for the Thanksgiving dinner are on the door to the cafeteria. We will decide what we are making, as a class, next week. In the next few weeks, I will contact the local Salvation Army office regarding our community service project. In the past, I have usually had luck reaching someone around Thanksgiving. Finally, progress reports will be sent out next week.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Heather