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August 29 – September2

First Grade Parents,

This week will find us getting closer to our “normal” routine…yay!! It takes some time to get procedures under our belts, plus there was some “tweaking” I needed to do. Over the summer I had it all planned out and it was perfect…in my head. The reality of new standards, new resources, head counts, and even the personality of the class called for some fine tuning. Meeting your child at his or her individual level of learning and growing from there is something I take very seriously. I think we are onto something good here now!

Now that I have things more where I want them, I am going to set up a SignUp Genius for volunteering in the classroom. I think that will be easier for both you and me to coordinate our times. I have specific needs for mornings and afternoons, but would love to make special arrangements for other times if my time slots do not work for you. I will let you know when that SignUp Genius is ready to go. Please continue to volunteer in Atrium and Art Masterpiece, as well.

Actually, this week you have a “Bonus Opportunity” to volunteer. It is our week to eat lunch outside! We cannot eat out at the picnic tables, however, without adult supervision. The class hates to miss eating outside, so if you can spare an hour or so at lunchtime, that would be awesome!

Speaking of lunch, there is a change to our lunch menu on Tuesday. To accommodate a funeral luncheon in Presentation Hall, we will not be able to serve lunch in the cafeteria. The options for buying lunch at the school will be cheese pizza or chef salad, only; baked potatoes and PB&Js will not be available. If your child does not want either of those choices, please send a lunch from home. Students may bring a towel or blanket to sit on outside. We will still have pizza on Wednesday, as well. Thank you for your understanding.

OK…last week I kind of snuck in a math test and spelling test. I promise that is not the norm. Chapter 1 in math was a review, so I knew the kiddos didn’t need much in terms of support from home. I will say, however, that math is the content area where test dates do get moved from time to time. Sometimes, I have a test planned and find that we need a little more practice. I’m not going to give the class a test that I don’t feel they are prepared for. As far as spelling goes, I am combining the two camps of “pattern words” and “sight words”. Both are equally important to be a successful reader. You will see pattern word tests more frequently, with sight words tests every 3 weeks, or so. The patterns we are working on now are short vowel patterns, but they will become more complex as the year continues. Last week’s test was just to see how their class work was supporting their learning of the words; I wasn’t even sure I was going to take a grade for it. They rocked it, though, so why not count it for a grade, right? In general, you will definitely know when tests are coming up in all subject areas. I send home study guides at least a week in advance for you to help your child review at home.

Your child brought home login information for XtraMath today. Please be sure that account is set up at home. XtraMath is frequently a part of homework. I get a report that tells me who did and didn’t do the assignment, as well as the progress that each child is making through the program. A solid foundation in basic math skills makes the years ahead so much smoother!

Thank you to the Castillo Family for providing snacks this week. The Liszewski Family will be providing snacks next week.

Have a wonderful three-day Labor Day weekend!!!

May God Bless You,

Mrs. Stevason