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September 6 – September 9

First Grade Parents,

 I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Labor Day weekend! I love those extra days off, but it sure makes the next Tuesday a bit crazy!

I did set up a SignUp Genius for volunteering in the classroom. Yay!! As I said before, I think this will be easier for both you and me to coordinate our times. Although the times on the SignUp Genius are fixed, I am always open to making special arrangements for other times, and there will be special event days that do require other times. If you are able to come in and help out, I thank you in advance. Here is the link to the SignUp Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AAFA628A6F85-classroom> It can also be accessed through my webpage.

This week we will have a spelling test that may require some practice at home. They are number words and your child wrote them in his or her agenda today. We have actually been working on these words in school for a couple of weeks and are hitting them especially hard this week. Although I haven’t done it yet, I actually like to have a pre-test on Thursdays. Any words missed on the pre-test are written 5 times at home for homework Thursday night. This gives you and your child the chance to focus on the words are really causing the most trouble. Students who get a “100” on the pre-test are excused from the retest on Friday. I will also eventually add some challenge words for Bonus Points.

It looks like we are also ready for a math test. I sent home a chapter review today on number bonds. Depending on how the homework looks, we will have the test on Wednesday or Thursday. The class is ready, so I don’t have any concerns. We have been working A LOT on number bonds.

We have been doing XtraMath during math center time. I have noticed that some students are not completing the assignment. I noticed this when it was assigned for homework, as well. Please be sure that your child keeps going through the cycles until the “teacher” says, “You are done.” It takes about 3 practice rounds to get there. XtraMath can always be repeated at home for more practice. We already have 2 students who have passed addition in 3 seconds. I gave out one certificate today, and will be handing out the second one tomorrow. Nice work! It takes practice!

Looking ahead to this weekend…

* Back to School Bash is Friday Night from 6-9 PM. It is always a fun time!
* Costco Night is Saturday Night. I don’t have too many details about that, but I believe Mrs. Liszewski is going to send an email later this week.
* Sunday is Patriot Day when we remember the victims of 9/11. I have an interesting thing to share about this…I took my son out Pokemon hunting about a month ago. We were on Gilbert Road right by the Civic Center when he told me to turn in to the parking lot because there was something there. As we walked around, lo and behold, we came across a 9/11 Memorial. What?! I NEVER even knew Gilbert had a memorial. It is beautiful! There is a piece of one of the towers there with a granite wall that has every victim’s name from that day engraved in it. (It even recognizes the unborn…wow!) Anyway, we were so pleasantly surprised to come across this. We spent quite a bit of time there, actually, and shed a few tears. If you haven’t seen it, maybe it is something you would like to visit this weekend. Just an idea.

Next week are conferences. Please sign up through Option C; instructions were sent home last week. ITBS also begins next week, but first grade does not participate in standardized testing.

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

May God Bless You,

Mrs. Stevason