

September 30, 2011

Dear Parents,

Hi! We have settled into the school year amazingly well! This is an awesome group of students! I am really enjoying them!

One Friday a month I have "Boys Lunch" and "Girls Lunch". When it's the boys' turn they can eat lunch in the classroom with me and I bring a special dessert to share with them, and the same for the girls' turn. This is an opportunity for me to chat informally with them, learn more about them and how they are feeling about school. Two weeks ago, we had Girls Lunch and today we had Boys Lunch. With a ratio of 12 girls to 5 boys, Boys Lunch was quieter! ☺

**Reading Log:** In case there is any confusion about Reading Logs: They are due every Monday (or first day of the week if there happens to not be school on Monday.) The students are expected to read a minimum of 80 minutes a week with it being made up of at least four sittings, not 80 minutes in one sitting. They need to record the number of minutes and have it signed by a parent. It is important that they are responsible for doing this and I prefer to see them writing the titles.

**Halloween:** I do not have a Halloween Party in the classroom. Some time between Halloween and Thanksgiving we will have a Harvest Party with special refreshments and activities.

**Power School and Grading:** If you do not have older children, this may be new information for you. Parents have access to Power School program. This program allows parents to track grades, lunch accounts and attendance. Attached you'll find a letter with your log in information. I apologize for the delay in getting this information to you. There was a delay in getting Power School up and running and log in info to teachers. Then, because I am new to this school, additional time to set my class up, and, FINALLY ☺, being new to this grade level, I needed to be trained in how to use Power Grade. I am now raring to go! Currently, if you log in you will not see any grades. I have many grades in my paper grade book but, now that I am all set up, need to enter them into Power Grade. My plan is by Monday it will be all up to date. From that point on, grades should appear within a few days. If you have any problems accessing your child's grades or any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Grades are: 90-100 A  
80-89 B  
70-79 C  
60-69 D Below 60 E (Please notice that E stands for failing in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above, not excellent.)

I have noticed when grading students' work that they are frequently misspelling words that are right there on the paper. I am going to begin taking a point off and right SP when that happens. I am working with them on doing their best work, which includes double-checking and taking their time.

We have also had problems with remembering to put their names on their papers. If a paper is handed in without a name on it, no one gets credit for it. That means that anyone whose paper I do not have will have to do it and it will be late.

I have completed AIMS WEB benchmarking on all students. We do this in the fall and repeat it in the winter and spring to monitor student progress in the areas of math computation and reading. The purpose is to show which students may need some extra interventions in order to be successful.

Next week we begin NECAP testing. Our schedule is Reading Tuesday through Thursday next week and Math the following week, Wednesday through Friday. Please make sure your child is well rested, has breakfast and a good snack.

Monday we went to Lakewood and enjoyed The Three Little Pigs. It was very funny!

We have started a personal narrative writing piece (a personal experience). In Math, we have worked on reviewing for NECAPs, place value, rounding and reading different types of graphs. Today the students made bar graphs of the number of food items each class brought in for the food cupboard.

In Social Studies, we have been working on map skills. We have learned the different features on maps, how to use maps, map keys, map scale and are now learning how to use different kinds of maps. Today the students received a map assignment due next Friday. They are creating a map from your house to school. This is an outside of school assignment. We won't be working on it in class.

Upcoming Events: October 7—Workshop Day  
October 10—Columbus Day: No School  
October 27—Parent Teacher Conferences

Remember, don't hesitate to call or email me anytime!

Patty Gallison

