

Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying your day off. You and your child deserve it! We have all been working hard and sometimes need to take the time to just do family activities and sometimes do nothing.

Here are a few things to know for next week:

**Spelling:** We are not having spelling next week. The children will not have words, a spelling choice board or a spelling test.

**Reading:** Next week, we will be reading the next chapter of *Gasping Garbage* (chapter 4) and the children will be answering the questions about the chapter but then we will set it aside for awhile. This is the joy of a book that is set up with different mysteries to be solved in two chapter sequences. We are going to be using our reading time to inquire about climate change and activism. The next books we will be reading are “Molly’s Pilgrim” and “The Matchbox Diaries” These two books go along with our next inquiry unit, “Cultures Contribute to the Development of Communities”. We will also be using the Epic more for research and deepening our understanding of this inquiry.

**Writing:** Students will be writing their 2nd story over the next 2 weeks. This time, students will be more independent with their writing and we will take this draft through the entire writing process all the way to publishing. Our next unit will be focusing on informational writing. We will begin in November. 2nd stories will be due by Friday October

**Inquiry:** We are finishing up our Inquiry Unit, “Weather and Climate Affect Daily Life”, this next week. The unit ends with the children learning about climate change and kid activists. They are asked to take action. To use what they have learned and transfer it to familiar and unfamiliar situations. The action plan can be a personal action or an action for others. We will be discussing this and giving them a format to use to create their own action plan.

Our next unit, “Cultures Contribute to the Development of Communities”, will hopefully begin on October 26. The introductory letter for the unit is attached. It begins with the children discovering their own heritage. They will be looking at their families, the community and creating a heritage/cultural project. In the first week, they will be creating a family tree, interviewing a relative, and looking for traditions that have been passed down through time.

**7 Habits of a Happy of Happy Kids:** The first habit we learned about was Be Proactive: You’re in Charge. This next week we’ll be learning about Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind-Make a plan. The children will be listening to stories and discussing the importance of making plans. The final plan they will be making will be their action plan for the inquiry unit.

**2nd Step/Safe Touch:** Thank you to all of you who have already let us know what your plan is for the Safe Touch curriculum. In the 2nd Step Curriculum, we have been working on teaching the children Unit 1: Skills for Learning. Lesson 1 focused on giving attention and listening to

help them learn and show respect. Lesson 2 focused on using self-talk to stay focused, stay on task and handle distractions. This week we will be teaching lesson 3 on being assertive. Being assertive means asking for what you want or need in a calm and firm voice.

As many of you know, my stepfather had surgery last week. He is home and recovering well but my sister, who was staying with them to help got sick so I have moved in with them to help my mom. Due to this, I will be continuing to update PowerSchool this weekend. Please continue to check PowerSchool to see if your child has any missing assignments. Thank you for your kind words and prayers for my family.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are getting through this together.

Stay safe and healthy,

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan