

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we have already been in school for 3 weeks. We are working on **building responsibility and self advocacy**. Every Monday, students come in and are responsible to write down all of their homework for the week in their planner. We check it to make sure it is accurate and help anyone who has difficulty. You will see that it has been checked because we will put our initials on the page. You can also find the homework on our web page and Google site if needed. Remember, sometimes things take longer or we shift throughout the week. We will make changes to keep it up to date. This is a great year to start encouraging and teaching your child to become an advocate for themselves. We want you to encourage your child to come and ask their questions to learn to be a risk taker and communicator. We have talked in class that we are their teachers and are here to help them learn. We are encouraging them to ask questions until they understand. If your child is hesitant, please send us a quick email and we will encourage them to ask their question.

October is the month of Free Dress Fridays that was an auction item last year. It's not too late to participate in this fundraiser. To purchase you may go online through the Greater Giving website. [HERE](#) is that link. Cash and checks are also accepted, and checks should be made payable to the St. Luke Auction. Students always love having extra free dress days! It starts next Friday so don't miss out.

The feast day of St. Luke is coming up on Monday, October 18th. This coincides with our St. Luke-a-Thon. In the next week, we will be learning about St. Luke and using this information to come up with our theme for the St. Luke-a-Thon. We know that St. Luke is the patron saint of artists as well as of doctors and surgeons. Hopefully, this will be an easy idea for all of us to implement.

Carpool has been a bit crazy lately. We have students who have carpools and different people picking them up and also may leave at a different carpool time. We both are so busy during the school day that we do not get a chance to check our email. Please if you have a change in your child's pick up, let us know the night before or before school starts in the morning so we can make sure your child gets to where they need to be. What we have found to be successful for students is to have a schedule that is consistent. Given that we send students to younger siblings teachers, it is helpful to have them leave at the same carpool everyday even if someone different is picking them up. For example, if you have students in your carpool that are in the upper grades, you would still come to the earlier carpool for consistency. We want to make sure your child gets to where they need to be.

We have found that we need to take a **pause on teaching the cursive letters** and first go back and **work on printing**. We started today, Friday, working with the children to improve their letter formation and letter size. Hopefully, this will improve the overall handwriting we are seeing across all subject areas. We told the children that they are going to be asked to erase words if we can not read it and rewrite it.

Your children may have come home and told you about the great book we have begun reading. It is called "The Case of the Gasping Garbage". It is a wonderful story about two children who are science detectives and solve mysteries. We love the format of the book because it sets up the mystery in one chapter and solves it by the next chapter. If your child is enjoying the book, we have others that are in this same series or you can pick them up in any book store.

Next week, Wednesday-Friday, we will be taking our MAPS tests. Please remember to have your child eat a good breakfast and get plenty of sleep so they will be ready for the test. We will be reminding them to take their time taking the test. These are not timed tests so they have as much time as they need to complete it. Generally, they do better when they do not rush. **NO SPELLING OR GRAMMAR NEXT WEEK.**

Sorry this is so long, Have a wonderful weekend!

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith