

Dear Parents,

School is off to a great start! The children have created their Essential Agreements for the classroom and are collecting class dojo points for specific behavior goals. Next week, we will be choosing someone to be the Star Student for the week of September 19-23. The chosen person will be bringing home information for their display, pictures to bring or send in, and information for what is special each day.

Our first all-school mass is this coming Monday, September 12th at 9:30. All are welcome to attend. We will be talking with all of our students about our high expectations for respectful participation and behavior during mass.

Next week is an exciting week in ELA. We begin our reading groups and writer's workshop! Please make sure your child has completed decorating their writer's notebook and returns it to school by Monday. Our first unit is "Crafting True Stories" in which students will be writing personal narratives. In reading, we will be beginning our Mystery Unit.

Attached is a copy of the introduction to our first Inquiry unit. The unit is on weather and our central idea is "Weather and Climate Affect Daily Life". The children will begin by learning about the job of the meteorologist and the tools they use. We are hoping to create our version of those tools on Friday, September 16. If you have any of the following items please send them in on Monday to help us prepare. (pint-sized glass jars (we need 8), plastic individual pop containers (8), pint size sour cream or cottage cheese containers (8))

We will be MAPS testing the week of September 19th on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This testing means we will not be starting our regular weekly grammar and spelling homework until the week of September 26th. Homework assignments will be written down in their student planner on Monday morning for the week. Remember you can check for homework on our classroom webpages.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan