

Dear Parents,

It was so great to see all of you at Academic Night! If you have any questions please just send us an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Homework is truly beginning next week. It's important to set up a place for them to work that has everything they need to be successful. If they need to take breaks, try using a timer and having them look at one assignment and decide how long they think they need to complete it. Then set the timer and see how accurate they were and help them to make adjustments for the next one. Remember spelling homework begins next week. **Monday** is always completing the **Trace/Copy/Write** page and bringing it back in on Tuesday morning. For the rest of the week, they may choose from any of the choices on the Spelling Job sheet or a more physical way like throwing a ball or jumping on a trampoline as they spell their words. On Toddle, your child has access to a digital choice board with even more ideas for studying their words. The spelling homework is to complete **ONE** spelling activity a night. Always let us know if your child seems to be taking an inordinate amount of time on homework so we can make adjustments. They should **not** be spending more than 30 minutes a night on homework. Grammar instruction begins as well. Concepts and topics will be introduced on Fridays with homework practice the following Monday through Thursday. Students complete **one** activity a night with the **packet due Friday**. They will also be having a **test on Fridays**.

In IB, *Make Your Voice Count*, the children are in the process of learning about the Bill of Rights, electing officers, and choosing how they, as "citizens" of our classrooms, will be responsible for how the classroom runs. In reading class, each class brainstormed different ways that people "express voice" They came up with many ideas (poetry, protests, speeches, voting,...) The next step will be choosing a picture book to read that shows someone using their "voice" to bring about a change. Each group will share what they learned with the class.

In math, students will be beginning their second unit, *Use Place Value to Fluently Add and Subtract within 1,000*. When we begin each unit, we have the children complete a *Readiness* page (evaluates student understanding of the prerequisite skills needed to be successful when learning strategies to add and subtract fluently), and **for those who feel ready** a pretest of the skills in the unit. Those who pass the pretest or parts of the pretest will be moved to activities that build on the skills they already possess. Part of that move will be to some fun STEM projects that they can complete during the unit both during class time and at home.

If you haven't sent in your **field trip form** and money please do so by next Tuesday. We are excited to head over to **Swan Trail Farms!** They will explain how they take care of the apple orchard, and how many varieties of apples they grow, and teach us all about the importance of pollination in our apple orchards. They promise the kids will leave Swans Trail Farms knowing a little more than they did before the field trip. A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to drive. We are allowed 13 total chaperones so we will do our best to include all who volunteered but can not guarantee that all of you will be able to attend this trip. We will be sending out the carpool lists next week.

Enjoy these first days of Fall,
Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith