



Dear Parents,

School is off to a great start! The children have worked on their Essential Agreements for the classroom and are collecting class dojo points for specific behavior goals. Next week, we will choose someone to be the Star Student for September 18-22. The chosen person will bring home information for their display, pictures to bring or send in, and information about what is special each day.

Remember to send a healthy snack with your child each day. We ask that the snack be separate from their lunch and not need a fork or spoon. Each child should have a reusable water bottle that they can use throughout the day.

Our first all-school mass is this coming Wednesday, September 13th, at 9:30, and the children must wear their dress uniform. Information on what dress uniform is can be found in the [Family Handbook](#). All are welcome to attend. We will talk with all 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 ensure your child has completed decorating their writer's notebook and returns it to school by Monday. Our first writing unit is "Crafting True Stories," in which students will write personal narratives. In reading, we will begin our look at nonfiction text features, and each child will create an "All About Me" nonfiction lapbook. Spelling doesn't officially begin until after MAPS testing week.

Attached is a copy of the introduction to our first Inquiry unit. The unit's central idea is "Make Your Voice Count". The children will begin by learning about democracy, rules and laws, and the role of citizens. They will inquire into the Shoreline City Government while we create our own Classroom government. Every third-grade citizen will have a role in our government. We will be voting on different officers (Mayor, Deputy Mayor, City Manager, Treasurer) each trimester and having the rest of the citizens join different committees.

We will be MAPS testing the week of September 18th on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. This testing means we will not start our regular weekly grammar and spelling homework until 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 web pages as well.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Valerie Sheehan and Susan Smith