

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that only three more weeks of school are left. Where has this year gone? We have fun, busy weeks ahead. Please ensure you turn in your permission slip for the field trip next week if you have not done so already. We are looking forward to a great day at the Science Center.

Due to the holiday weekend and a short week, there will be no grammar or spelling next week. We will finish many projects in ELA by the end of next week. In reading, students will finish their novels (Shiloh or Stone Fox) and we hope to end by comparing the movie version to the book. Our adapted fairy tales are nearly finished, with the goal of having all rough drafts completed next week. We will spend the last week of class finalizing them either in Book Creator or typing them in Google Docs.

The children will begin their summative assessment for our latest IB unit, "Invisible pushes and pulls help operate the world around us," next week. The summative assessment is a *topic talk, which is an at-home/in-class research and exploration task that students then present to their classmates in school. Each Topic Talk is carefully planned to assist in supporting and extending your child's understanding of the science.* Each child may work alone, with a partner, or in a group of 3 to create a Topic Talk about one of the Mystery concepts they learned. In class, they will be choosing the topic (mystery) and concepts they want to be experts on and begin to create a plan for its execution. Time will be given in class for work on these projects, but they may need to also work at home to make sure they are completed on time. We have many things available in class for them to use on the projects (magnets, construction paper, poster board, index cards...) but their creativity may call for you to purchase or create the projects at home (silly putty...) The Topic Talks presentations will begin on June 5th.

Requirements for Topic Talks:

- *Presentations to be approximately 5-10 minutes in length.*
- *Oral information memorized or assisted with cue cards*
- *Information presented must be pertinent to the topic set, appropriate, and demonstrate an understanding of the concepts.*
- *Any extra research must include at least one reference citation from a reliable source.*
- *Presenters must demonstrate basic presentation skills (clear voice volume, eye contact with the audience, good posture, and the ability to explain support materials).*
- *Presenters will answer a maximum of 3 questions from the audience*

*All Topic Talks **must** include support material. The children may choose to create posters, use photos/pictures and drawings, create slideshows and videos, or perform a demonstration or experiment. Other ideas include 3D models, dioramas, graphs, and charts. They can also come up with other ideas on their own. We want them to be creative, inquire, and have fun!*

Our last food drive of the year begins next week. Please give what you can, as this will be the last food drive for nearly 6 months. All food needs to be in date and brought to school by Friday, June 7th.

Important Dates

5/24 - 5/27 - NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

5/31 - Non-uniform day

6/11 - End of year picnic ~ Hickman Park

6/12 - All School Mass (8:45 am)

6/13 - Field Day and Moving-Up Ceremony (12:00pm dismissal)

6/14 - Last Day of School - (Mass 9:30 am) (10:30 am dismissal)

Have a relaxing long weekend,
Susan Smith and Valerie Sheehan