

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Hello everyone, and welcome to our second week of 2012! I think last week was an adjustment coming back, but hopefully all of us are ready to start the new semester and are ready to learn. We will review our expectations as reviewed last week. Last week we started off great, and then the class started to go back to old habits. For Mrs. Cole and me, it was becoming harder to keep their attention and keeping them on task. Granted, it was the first week back from break, but we will both hold the students to a higher standard, being almost fourth graders. We know every single one of our students can shine and be great students.

Although all written work should be cursive now (with the exception of spelling words and math), if your child is having trouble keeping up with homework because the cursive is too time-consuming, please speak with us individually. We can make the change more gradual as the semester progresses. All students are doing a great job with it in class!

**Reading** - We will start our novel groups back up this week, so look for nightly reading and reading logs again. Reading logs should be written in cursive. We have rearranged our groups to accommodate the skills we feel each students needs to continue working on. We want to keep a positive and productive environment for all our students.

**Math** - This week we will have Saxon every day except Tuesday. Tuesday we will be doing our Math Acuity test. This is our last Math Acuity test before TCAP. The rest of the week we will have math lessons concentrating on identifying and writing very large numbers and identifying place values of very large numbers. We will also be reviewing some aspects of previous lessons that Mrs. Cole and I have found the students to be having trouble with. Keep practicing those multiplication facts!!!

**History** - We will continue our unit on the thirteen American colonies this week. We are concentrating on the southern colonies this week. We will have students write complete sentences answering questions handed out in class. These sentences will need to be in cursive to obtain full credit. Students will also be completing a map of the colonies that they will continue updating through the entirety of this unit. The students need to make sure they have that map with them every day for History.

**Science** - Mrs. Cole will wrap up the unit on eyes and optics this week. Friday students will team up in a game of trivia to assess their knowledge over these topics. Ask your child about the learning diagram completed in class last week. Next week we will begin team teaching a unit on the ear and sound.

Writing - We will finish final drafts for the Grade 13 and Beyond scholarship contest this week. Ask your child about this very special essay. We will also be reviewing some Shurley English parts of speech and grammar rules as we revise essays.

Spelling - We will have two new lists this week: 54 and 55. The test this week will be all nine words from list 53 this Friday. Students will continue to writing definitions and sentences independently this week. We will write the new words together, but definitions and sentences will be worked on independently. I will help students with concerns they have during the process of completing this assignment. I will expect everything except the new words and markings to be in cursive.

Parent Survey - At the end of every school year, CCA sends out a parent satisfaction survey in an effort to continually improve our services. This year we have also opted to send a mid-year survey in order to improve things in a more timely fashion. We are asking parents to complete a survey for each child in the school. Each grade level teacher will then receive the results of the survey and be better equipped for improving his/her own class operations. The survey is online and should only take a couple of minutes. If I do not have an email address for you, I have attached a hard copy of the survey to the hard copy of your newsletter. The window for the online survey is open until January 20. Please take a moment to complete this for each of your children so that we may continue to provide a quality education to all of our students. The link is:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CCA3rdGrade>

I hope I have given all of you a good look into this upcoming week. If you have questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact either of us anytime. Thank you for your continued support and assistance! You are greatly appreciated!!

Educationally yours,

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