

January 4, 2012,

Dear Parents,

I hope each of you had a joyful and relaxing Christmas and New Year! Now that our break has drawn to a close, it is time to get back into the school routine once more. Here is a look at what we will be tackling this week.

Spelling/Vocabulary: Our spelling and vocabulary units will pick up where we left off. Our next test will be on Tuesday.

Writing: The Grade 13 and Beyond essays will be our focus during our writing period all week. We will revise, edit, and rewrite in large groups, small groups, and during teacher's conferences. These essays must be completely finished by next Friday.

Reading: "The Samurai's Daughter" will be our next Core Knowledge reading unit. This short story is a legend from the Feudal period of Japan. Students should also be reading their "Genre of the Month" books. Projects are due on Friday, January 20th.

Math: Both groups will be taking their next test on Thursday, with supplemental activities to round out the day.

Red group --- Polygons, prime factorization, division by primes, and factor trees will be on the agenda for this group.

Blue group --- Blue group will concentrate on changing improper fractions to whole or mixed numbers, plus work on multiplying fractions. I hope each student has been studying their vocabulary for this week's test!

Science: Our school science fair is fast approaching, so we will devote our science time to completing the final steps of the small group projects. On Friday, each group will be typing up the information for their reports and display boards. I hope to have all display boards completed by next Wednesday, at the latest.

Social Studies: We will begin a new unit this week, the European Exploration. This unit will be relatively quick, but has a lot of dates and people that may be confusing for the class. I haven't yet decided whether we will do an assessment or some other type of culminating project. I will keep you updated.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, please contact me at school or by e-mail (lisarupple@re3j.com).

Sincerely,

Lisa Rupple

Reminders:

- Breakfast burritos are available every Wednesday for \$3.00.
- Bookmobile on Thursday.
- Lunch options: Be watching for a new form for the second semester.
- Science Fair on Tuesday, January 17th.
- Character Ed. Assembly on Wednesday, January 25th, at 8 a.m.
- School board meeting on Wednesday, January 25th, at 5:30 p.m.