

Dear Parents,

I hope your kids had a good 3 day weekend! I had fun with my granddaughter. We all need family time, don't we?

I wanted to share a moment that happened in class last week. We were dealing with technology problems yet again. (This is the new normal for all of us.) And, per usual, the kids were jumping in with multiple solutions. (FYI, they taught me FOUR ways to type the ÷ sign on Friday. LOL!) And then they invented a new word: techspert. We all laughed long and hard at that. But it is so true! I feel like this should be a word that is added to Websters! And it is SO TRUE! Just this week a student sent out a Google Form to the class to get their feedback on a survey. And it was no big deal! On a daily basis they are sharing links with each other and presenting projects and screens online during our meets. I've mentioned their growing expertise before but that new word needs to be in everyone's vocabulary! I think I've used it already a dozen times! During this tough time, we need to focus on silver linings as much as we can, right? And this is definitely a silver lining! They are 100% techsperts!

On to stuff to know...

NON-TYPICAL WEEK AHEAD

Just a heads up that this coming week things are not necessarily going to be typical. Partly because we had no school on Monday. The good news about that is there are a lot less assignments due this week. Do I hear a hooray? I've listed specific changes on the website under the Remote Learning Schedule page.

LITERABLY ASSESSMENT

You are probably familiar by now with the Literably testing. This checks the progress students are making with their reading. I am asking all the Ellerbees to do this on **Wednesday**. They will need to do this and finish this in one sitting. So please provide a chunk of time for this to get done. FYI, the assessment will have to be redone if there is noise in the background. I know it isn't easy to find a quiet spot so thank you for helping with that. **The instructions for how to do this is posted on the Wednesday Work page on the website.** The good news is that I have eliminated almost all the typical Wednesday assignments so that this can get done. So...no iReady, no Choice Board, no videos, and no projects. Woo hoo!

BLACK PEN REMINDER

Just a quick reminder to all the Ellerbees to write all assignments with a black pen. This helps me SO MUCH! Last week some pencil work was turned in and, yup, it was hard to read. Thank you for making sure your student has black pens available. (White Out is useful too.)

MATERIALS PICK UP NEXT WEEK

We are going to have another Materials Pick Up next Wednesday, January 27. We are all experts at this by now, right? Our time window is 11:00 to 12:00. This also coincides with the library pick up and drop off so that works out well. As usual, if that time/day does not work for

you, please let me know. We can come up with a Plan B. Also, we will not be done with our electricity unit, so you do **NOT** need to return the electricity supplies yet.

YesForCUSD FYI

I'm sure you are aware that in response to community concern about likely CUSD school closures, the school board is proposing a parcel tax to go on the ballot in May. If passed, this will relieve the district's financial emergency. You can find out more by going to yesforcusd.org. The website has answers to FAQs but you have to scroll down past the "Please Donate" banner. Just to let you know, the teachers will not be able to answer questions about this on school emails, websites etc. once it is made official. So ,by the end of January, I won't be mentioning it officially again. You can always contact our PTA as they are permitted to communicate about this throughout the campaign. You can reach out to teachers off campus. Please feel free to request my personal email if you would like to do so.

PTA REQUEST

Are you interested in serving on the Nominating Committee for our PTA? We will basically have every position open for the 21/22 school year. Of course, if you are interested in running for a position, that would be wonderful. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Tsuchida at cynthia.tsuchida@gmail.com.

Looking forward to a no stress week! Do I hear a cheer for no tests?!

Stay safe,

Ruth