

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe October starts next week! The students are really starting to get in the groove with classes and assignments. So awesome!

I wanted to share an amazing moment with you that happened last week.

We were in the middle of class and I was modeling a lesson using the document camera. Everything was routine. When suddenly, my laptop froze! I was also frozen on my 2<sup>nd</sup> laptop. So of course I froze in real life! LOL! At that moment I realized teachers had not been told what to do when that happened! What if I couldn't relaunch? How would I let you know? Talk about panic! So, I restarted and was so thankful that I was able to rejoin our class meet. And EVERY SINGLE STUDENT HAD WAITED PATIENTLY! They were trying to problem solve and staying calm. I wanted to hug each and every one of them. Then later that day, it happened again! But this time, my 2<sup>nd</sup> laptop was okay, so we just carried on. Your children are brave and kind and resilient.

So on to stuff to know.

### **NAMING DOCUMENTS AND EMAILS**

This time it is good news. There was a startling improvement this week! Thank you so much for your support with this!!! I think we had only 2 stumbles with this. And they were so excited to earn class points! Please keep up with the reminders and notes. Thank you!

### **IREADY MINUTE CONFLICTS**

As I mentioned last week, the 30 minutes on iReady on Wednesdays is a requirement, not an option. On Thursday, I went to the teacher dashboard and recorded the student minutes. I let parents and students know if the minutes were not done or there were not enough minutes. Thanks to you wonderful parents (No surprise where your kids get that "wonderful" gene!) I heard back that the minutes I saw, and what the kids saw, were not always aligned. I still don't know why but I found 2 different places from my end where minutes are recorded and they were not always the same. So crazy! Anyway, students (and you) can see the minutes s/he completed by checking the student progress sheet. I asked students to take a screen shot of the minutes that week and send it to me. So at least we have a way to solve this. Whew!

### **FONT SIZES**

So, this has a humorous side (maybe I need glasses?) but I am requesting that students use a normal font (not fancy) and choose font size 14, 15, or 16 when they work on Google Docs. The odd thing is that Google Docs actually default to size 11! Isn't that crazy? But at least this is easy to fix.

### **VIRTUAL MATH CLUB**

The PTA is working hard for students to have opportunities to interact. They have launched a Virtual Math Club that will start next week on October 6. I am attaching the flyer with the information. If the attachment doesn't work, no worries. I will post it on the class website right under the latest posted email.

### **STUDENTS READING THE WEBSITE**

I am getting lots of questions from students that are all answered on the website. I do not mind answering questions, of course. However, it is important to set up an expectation with your child that they go to the website and read all about the assignments. Please utilize the Lincoln Agenda that was sent home to write down assignments. It is also a good place and time to write down what to name those pesky docs and emails. The students are old enough as 4<sup>th</sup> graders to read the information posted.

## **MATH FYI**

Just letting you know that the math chapter 2 tries to pack in a lot of information and much of it is brand new. The chapter rushes all of this and through experience I know that we need to slow it down. So, I will be posting worksheets a lot instead of the actual math pages in the book. Everything is clearly written on the website, so nothing is a surprise. Even with a worksheet, the routine is the same. We always grade the assignment the day after, and once it is graded, it is sent to me via email.

## **CHAIN EMAILS AND MESSAGES ALERT**

It has come to light that some inappropriate hangout messages etc. have been getting passed around. I am confident it was not started by our class. However, it is of the variety that can scare students. I think the current one is about a brown bear and is violent and threatening. The “bear” says it is bloody and dead. And if the students don’t send the message to at least 12 people, it will come to your house and kill you.

When I spoke with the Ellerbees about this many said they had seen it. Many said that it had scared them. Of course, we talked about how this threat was not real. But the important thing was that if they ever saw this message or another one that was upsetting, they should take a screen shot and show it to mom or dad right away. If that happens, please let me know. This is such a sad thing to worry about. I know you will do everything possible to keep your children safe!

## **CHOICE BOARD FOR WEDNESDAYS**

Just wanted to mention to you that students are required to choose one thing on Wednesdays from the choice board posted on the website. FYI, the links on the choice document on the website are not active. So, I will continue to post the document on our Google Classroom. Those links DO work. Hooray!

As always, thanks for your patience as you read through my emails.

Please do not hesitate to contact me!

Stay safe,

Ruth