

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a restful and fun break last week. I read a lot of books. LOL! And got to have fun with my granddaughter. We went to the zoo! Hooray!

I've been thinking about how adaptable children are! They have had to deal with change after change all year long. And then, things went crazy the week before break! And this week is different again! And next week it will be different AGAIN! I don't know how they maintain their sanity and how they are able to go with the flow! Even though during this year there has been a lot asked of children, they amaze me every day with how they just keep their chin up, smile, and adjust. This is what I call resilience. I know we are all worried about how all of this will affect our kids (My granddaughter told me she hates school now!), but I think we will see some positives also. They know how to adapt and even keep a sense of humor through it all. After I commiserated with my granddaughter about school, I made a promise to myself. Whenever possible I will tell her about the strengths that I see in her. I want her to see that she has persevered, she has talked to her teacher about her struggles, she has gritted her teeth and done all those assignments without giving up. Also, she has worked on maintaining friendships, she still laughs and finds joy in the middle of it all. Sorry for going on about this, but I see all of that in your kids. They are strong. They are brave. There will be some good that comes out of all of this!

On to stuff to know...

CAASPP TEST STRUGGLES

We had planned for all the CAASPP testing to be done before vacation. However, as you know, there were so many technical issues, mostly pertaining to the CAASPP web platform, that Mrs. Kropp had to end up postponing the test. That means that the Ellerbees completed only one out of the four tests.

So, the issue now is...when do we resume? The answer is that Mrs. Kropp is working hard on a plan, but it is still unknown when we will finish. I have a regular schedule planned out for the week, however, if we suddenly are told to plug in some test sessions, all my well-made plans could crash.

Just FYI, this is particularly complicated because teachers are not allowed to monitor In Person testing and Long Distance testing at the same time. Many scenarios are being worked on but at this point we are still on pause. I'm sure we will soon be informed of the new plan.

TRANSITION WEEK...AGAIN

This week we will still have the In Person kids come to school in their Cohort A or Cohort B groups. However, it will be very different because the plan is to arrive at 8:15 and remain at school until 1:50. That means they will be here at school for recess and lunch times.

However, along with this, the regular schedule has changed for everyone, even kids who are still remaining in Long Distance.

A quick overview is:

- School still starts at 8:30 each day.
- Both PE classes and Music class times have changed. All will be 8:40 to 9:25 and the days remain the same. (Monday and Friday – PE. Thursday – Music.)
- On Monday, Thursday, and Friday, there will only be time for a quick check in and attendance at 8:30 and we will resume class at 9:30.
- Recess/break will consistently be 10:50 to 11:10. Last week we had a lot of forgetting. I recommend setting new alarms.
- Lunch will consistently be 12:20 to 12:50. This is ONLY 30 MINUTES. Again, please set new alarms or get help from Alexa.
- In Person kids go home at 1:50.
- School still officially is in session until 3:00. At 1:50 Long Distance learners are asked to stay in class. This is a time they can get help, ask questions etc. In Person kids can also pop in for the same reason after they get home.

Just FYI, whether students are In Person or Long Distance, they will still do their work and submit it the same way. Everything will continue to be posted on our website and Google Classroom.

More detailed information is on the website on the Hybrid Learning Schedule page.

LIBRARY TIME

Mrs. Routh will be doing library sessions with all 4th graders at 2:00 to 2:30 EVERY THURSDAY. The students should go to meet.google.com and type in the code: lincolnlibrary4. Sounds like fun!

SHOWING WORK FOR MATH

Please remind your children that it is very important to show all their thinking for math. Even if all the answers are correct on the math paper, I cannot give credit unless I see their thinking written down. This is an important thing to get in the habit of doing as this requirement doesn't change as you get older. I always say to the Ellerbees that I cannot read their minds so I have to see how they did the problem. When they show their thinking I literally can see where the mistake happened and then give feedback. Finally, the thinking needs to be written neatly so I can read it. This is super important so I can provide help and give credit for all their good thinking!

MATH CHAPTER 7 TEST ON FRIDAY

So we are going to have the next math test this Friday. We are used to the format at this point. Part 1 is posted on Google Classroom and Part 2 is done on paper and emailed to me. However, because of the new schedule, the test will begin at 9:30. They will have until 10:50 to work on it, which is less than the normal 2 hours. This should be enough time for most of the students, but IF more time is needed, I will be totally okay with s/he continuing to work until 12:20 when lunch begins. During the between recess and lunch time, we will be finishing our dialogue punctuation game. So, they will miss some fun, but they will not miss any critical new learning.

STEAM STUFF

Just letting you know that the bag of stuff sent home for STEAM projects does not have to be returned. Hooray!

LINCOLN YEARBOOK

I believe all families received an email last week about the Lincoln Yearbook. The email contained a link for ordering. Also, it contained a link for personalizing some pages for your child's yearbook. This is completely FREE! It seems like a great way to commemorate a year of school that will be like no other. The deadline for both is April 29. Also, thanks so much for all of you who sent in pictures for our Room 10 page.

ROCKS AND THE EGG CARTON

On March 31 everyone received 2 ziplock bags for science. One bag has 12 rocks which are all numbered. We will be using these during our new geology unit. Please organize these rocks in a container that has sections you can number. A super easy and cheap way to do this is to use an egg carton. Then keep these safe for when we need them.

There was a second bag that had something that looks like a rock. This is a fake rock we will be using this week as we get introduced to rocks. On Thursday we will actually measure the rock (a measuring tape will be very helpful) and then drawing it. NEXT week we will be taking it apart and making a Venn diagram. Please make sure your child has that ready to go on Thursday. Thank you so much!

IN PERSON INFORMATION

As we go through this week, I will most likely be sending you some specific information regarding In Person school. Just an FYI.

Thanks, as always, for your patience! We will get through this...together!

Stay Safe,

Ruth