

Dear Parents,

We have made it to February! Hard to believe, isn't it? But the Ellerbees are rocking online learning!

I know you remember that last week was the Lincoln Kindness Week. Every day the Ellerbees reported acts of kindness during our Morning Meet. It was so fun to hear about what they did! Some of the random acts of kindness were:

- Helping mom cook dinner
- Making thank you cards for our healthcare workers (We still have 2 weeks for this.)
- Making birthday cards for their teacher (so sweet!)
- Helping siblings with homework
- Cleaning a sibling's room
- Making a lunch or coffee for mom
- Helping to wash dishes, load the dishwasher, set the table
- Coffee hand delivered to the teacher (yum!)
- Included siblings in activities and games
- Played a game with mom

And there were many other acts of kindness too! If I could have, I would have hugged every single Ellerbee! So I'm sending virtual hugs instead!

On to stuff to know...

CALIFORNIA MISSIONS TEST

Oh no! We have another big unit test to study for! We are officially finished with our missions unit and it is time to study! As I always do, I will be helping everyone to study for the test. We will work together on questions from all the background sheets. We will also brainstorm how to prepare for some SMAART answers that will be on the test. Wednesday will be set aside to work with a Study Buddy like we did last week to help review for the test. The test will be at 10:00 on Friday. There is a Study Guide posted on the Social Studies page on the website that highlights all the parts of the test.

BLUE DOLPHINS TEST LAST WEEK

I have good news! I can honestly say that I was doing a happy dance today as I graded the tests because every Ellerbee did an amazing job! Every grade was 90% or above which puts it in the A range when thinking about letter grades. I have been teaching a lonnnng time and this has seriously never happened before that I can recall. I am SO PROUD of how hard they worked last week to prepare!! It is such a wonderful moment of really understanding the concept of "hard work pays off." Wow!

TURNING IN MATH

I wanted to thank you for supporting the effort to get all graded math work sent in on time. As you know, last week the idea was to send in the graded math work before leaving math class. I

excused students as they sent in emails. And I am so excited to let you know that we had 100% success! Woo hoo! We are going to continue this for this week. The hope is that we will get in a habit of doing this automatically and it will become a non-issue. Let's keep up the good work!

Also, just a reminder to brainstorm with your child to actually have the completed math work ready to grade on the right day. I write on the Assignment Checklist on the website when the math will be graded. This is not a daily thing, so it is easy to forget for all of us. Even me! Grading on Mondays is especially easy to forget! Thank you!

THAT RED BAG

Just a reminder that the mysterious red bag stapled shut that was in the Materials Pick Up Bag, is for the Valentines Party that we will have on Friday, February 13. (Oddly, Friday the 13th!) I have had questions about this, and the answer is...don't open the bag early! LOL!

HOW TO STEAL A DOG

Something else included in the Materials Pick Up Bag was a folder with the book, How to Steal a Dog. Just FYI, this is the new book we will be reading together. We will start the book NEXT week. Students should NOT read ahead. Please keep it in a safe place. We will be writing in it and using post-its just like we did for Island of the Blue Dolphins. If you prefer to use a pdf, I THINK this link should work:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:102eff26-5cdd-4227-93d1-741662265a26>

PANORAMA SURVEY

I believe that the parents of 4th through 8th graders received the link for this survey last Thursday from the district. This is a survey about the social emotional health of the students. If you already gave permission to participate in the survey last October, no action is necessary. If you can't remember if you did this or not, it is okay to resubmit the form. The consent form will stay active through February 4. Please feel free to contact the office or Mrs. Kropp with any questions.

MUSIC CLASS

If you received an email from Mr. Cooper last week, it is an indicator that your child is not fully participating in music class and/or completing assignments. Feel free to ask him any questions. Cooper_marcus@cusdk8.org.

Thanks again for reading this email so patiently. I feel blessed every day to have all of your kids in my class this year. And I am in awe of how much you are there for your kids!

Stay safe,
Ruth