

Dear Parents,

After a week off it is feeling a little unreal that school resumes tomorrow! Probably we are all feeling a little of that?

So usually I talk about how class is going right here. But today I have to let you know that I have been dealing all week long with technology issues! In normal life, this would just be an inconvenience, but in this new online school world, it has been urgent and frustrating. Long story short, the laptop was having a lot of problems and sudden shutdowns. It is currently at Apple Support and I may not get it back until March 12! How crazy is that? I may actually need to buy a new MacBook. Meanwhile, I am using a school laptop that does not have any of my files! Gasp! In addition, the temporary laptop will not print anything. But I am just grateful right now that I WILL be able to log in to our Ellerbee Meet on Monday morning! Also grateful that I can access my email and stay in communication with you all. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that all will be well, and I will be able to problem solve. Problem solving is something I always talk to my students about. It is such an important life skill. And, as I say to them, it is not just important in 4th grade! It is important all your life, even as a grown up! I will be able to give a real life example of that in class tomorrow. LOL!

On to stuff to know...

MATH CHAPTER 5 TEST

We will be reviewing chapter 5 this week to prepare for the test. So all the work will be worksheets posted on the website. We will go over factoring, common factors, prime and composite numbers, and multiples. Also, the Ellerbees need to make sure they have memorized all the prime numbers between 1 and 50. If they memorize between 1 and 100, they will get extra credit on the test. (These are all posted on the website.) If your child would like extra help to prepare, I am available. The 2:00 to 3:00 drop in time works, but I am flexible if we need to pick a different time. Just let me know.

The test will be just like the other math tests. We will start at 10:00 on Friday. Then they will have till noon to finish. The test will be posted on Google Classroom Friday morning. Also, there will be the paper part they will do and email to me.

SURVIVAL – OUR NEW SOCIAL STUDIES UNIT

We have launched our Native American unit called Survival. Last week we had a naming ceremony. I am sure you know your child's new name by now. We had a lot of fun with this.

Now the task is to memorize each other's names and use them exclusively in class.

While we are learning each other's new names it is super important to be able to see online our names. The students may, of course, wear the name headband I sent home. However, this only works if their face is close up on the screen. If they are distant from the screen we cannot read what is on the card. We can also use a Chrome extension to type the name on our screen. I use Visual Effects and it works great. It has a lot of different effects but you just need to scroll down to the "add text" option. You may also have some other solutions for this. Some Ellerbees are signing in with their personal accounts so that they can edit their name. I need to let you know

that Mrs. Kropp has asked that students do not use this option. She wants to make sure that student security is not compromised.

SURVIVAL KEYCHART WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

I apologize that there may have been confusion last week. I expected to do the first Keychart assignment with the Ellerbees on Monday and it was due on Friday. However, it took longer than expected so we didn't finish. I did post an update on the website right away, but I understand that not everyone had time to check that. Maybe if something like that happens again, sending a quick email is a good idea! Anyway, to clear up any confusion, I wanted to let you know we will be finishing Keychart 1 together tomorrow. And that will be due on Friday, the 26th. So hopefully your child did not get stressed about that. They are trying so hard to be responsible!!!

CLASS REWARD ON TUESDAY

The Ellerbees have been working hard to earn another class reward. And they did it! Hooray! They will get to join breakout rooms on Tuesday afternoon so that they can play games together. I will be popping in to the breakout rooms so they will be supervised.

KIDDLE.CO IS A SAFE SEARCH ENGINE

We are all needing to do endless Google Searches these days! As a mom myself I am very aware of the importance of keeping our children safe. I wanted to let you know about a site that is specifically made to be safe for students. Not only is it safer, it also pulls up websites that are easier to read and understand for kids. I definitely recommend trying out kiddle.co for a kid-friendly search experience!

COPING, COMPASSION, AND RESILIANCY

The district is offering tools for parents that will hopefully resonate with you during this quarantine time. They currently have 3 classes scheduled.

- 1) What is Wellness in a Pandemic on Wednesday, February 24 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- 2) Regulation for our Kids and Ourselves on Wednesday, March 10 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- 3) Finding Motivation on Wednesday, March 24 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

The district sent an email to all families that contain links to register. The office can resend or I can also forward my email to you if you'd like the information.

I am looking forward to Monday morning! I did get to see some Ellerbees during break when they got prizes and rewards they had earned. And some actually said they missed school! Now THAT put a huge smile on my face!

Stay safe,

Ruth