

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Here's to a sincere hope that 2021 will be a good year!

Since we have been on break for two whole weeks, that is really what is on my mind right now. I hope that this time has been a wonderful break for you and your kids. We all need time to just let go, relax, and enjoy family time. In this crazy time of quarantine, this is even more true. I must say that my heart goes out to all of you because school is so different right now. And not only different, but harder. Your children are dealing with so much. Worry, of course. And missing normal times to hang out with friends. Perhaps not getting to do all the normal holiday activities. And on top of all that, needing to do schoolwork at home instead of in the classroom. There is something easier about doing assignments when you are surrounded by others who are all doing it together. It is just not the same needing to keep track of everything at home. Not to mention, getting it done and then the final step of sending it to the teacher. Wow! Please know that I understand how hard that can be. I am fully sympathetic and am so proud of how hard they are all trying. And they are so blessed to have YOU in their corner, helping and encouraging them. I'm sure you are aware that we are writing an opinion essay about someone we admire. And...you'd be surprised how many are writing about someone in the family!

On to stuff to know.

LINCOLN YEARBOOK

John Ling is our wonderful Lincoln parent who is coordinating our yearbook. This is obviously not the typical way this gets done. John is asking for your help to send him pictures to include in the yearbook.

Here are his instructions:

Please deposit any photos of your student for the 2020-2021 Lincoln Yearbook. We need all the help from parents to upload their student's photo to be used for yearbook. Please send a photo from first day of school, spirit day wearing spirit wear, Halloween costumes, and any other photos you feel suitable for the yearbook. We can only pick a few photos per student. This link is not viewable by anyone else other than the yearbook staff. It is a strictly deposit only link for photos.

Please make sure your photo filename is your students:
<lastname>_<firstname>_<teacher_last_name>_<numbered>.jpg

For example:
smith_brandon_eller_00.jpg
smith_brandon_eller_01.jpg

Please upload photo from your phone to your computer, then rename the photo to the format above and upload to the dropbox link for your class.

Here's the link to upload the photos:
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/mqiDpdbX7CjRucFvzfl6>

ELECTRICITY STUFF

As you know a bag of more materials for our electricity activities was sent home before break. Please make sure to add that to the original materials and keep it all in one place. We will be using all of this, starting this week. I am so thankful that even though we are in our separate homes, we still get to have some hands-on experiences with science. (A big shout out to Ellee's mom for her help!) I know it can be crazy but all of these supplies need to be kept in one place so they don't get misplaced. They will need to be returned eventually. Thank you!

TURNING WORK IN ON TIME

I think that this might be the hardest part of online learning! Remember when they could just hand the work directly to the teacher? So this extra step of sending the work in is now so easy to overlook or forget. As you know, we earn class points for a class reward. We are very close! Hooray! Right now, points are only being earned for assignments getting turned in on time.

This task seems the most pesky when it comes to math. Right after math is graded, it needs to be sent to me. It should not be sent the following day. Since it is completed already, it should be a quick thing to take a picture and then send it right away. (I'm happy to let you know if this is an area to work on for your child – just ask.) Coming up with a plan together is very important. Hopefully the checklist on the website can make it easier for you to do a quick check each day. I know you are very busy, and I do not take your support for granted. Thank you so much!

MUSIC CLASS

Please feel free to contact Mr. Cooper, the music teacher. He is very receptive and helpful. He does give weekly assignments and many students are completing less than half. His email is: cooper_marcus@cusdk8.org.

SCHOOL REOPENING

As you know, the district sent home a survey before break, asking for parent commitments about your choice for your child if on-site school happens this spring. This is something that seems to be in constant flux as the COVID numbers rise during the holidays. Please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Kropp to ask questions.

FYI, the district is looking at some key dates to make decisions about when or if reopening will happen. The first one is January 19. At that time, they will consider the number of cases in the county, staffing, and campus readiness (certified by Santa Clara County Public Health).

I truly enjoyed the class talent show we had on December 18. It was so great to get to know the Ellerbees in a new way. Students shared paintings, drawings, science experiments, math tips, magic tricks, sewing projects, stories, instrumental pieces, and dances. WOW! I was amazed!

I am looking forward to seeing all the beautiful Ellerbee faces tomorrow morning!
Stay safe,

Ruth