

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your kids have been enjoying a 3 day weekend!

I've been thinking lately about how all the Ellerbees are adapting and growing as we go through this online school thing. I see quiet kids working hard to speak up. I see kids reaching out to each other to work in groups and help each other. I see kids taking a deep breath and reaching out to me to ask for help! We have been meeting one-on-one to review concepts and materials and my heart bursts with pride as they take time to check in with me. I see kids supporting each other and even those jokes, laughs, and smiles are brightening up the days. Sometimes it is hard to see the silver lining but every day when we meet for class, I see that shining everywhere!

So...on to stuff to know.

MATERIAL PICK-UP ON WEDNESDAY

As I mentioned last week, we are having our second materials pick-up time on Wednesday, the 14th. The time is 11:00 to 11:30. As I mentioned last week, let me know if that doesn't work for you. We can come up with a time you can drop by room 10 to pick up your child's materials.

The following items are in the bag:

- The new social studies unit materials (California Missions)
- A grammar packet
- A language roots packet
- 2 map pages and an instruction page to assist students as they study for the California Regions unit test coming up
- All the papers will be in a red folder. You may want to keep the orange folder for social studies and use the red folder for language papers
- A ziplock bag with an owl pellet and tools to find the hidden bones inside. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS GET OPENED UNTIL I ASK THE STUDENTS TO DO SO. We don't want things to get misplaced. I will be asking for the bag with the tools to be returned at the next pick-up day.
- A ziplock bag with materials for our electricity unit, which will be coming up next. Again, PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS GET OPENED UNTIL I ASK THE STUDENTS TO DO SO. Again, we don't want items misplaced. I will be asking for the bag with the supplies to be returned after our electricity unit is over.
- Prizes may be included. There will be a small bag with Jolly Ranchers for the group that won the scavenger hunt. There may also be individual rewards for students who chose a mystery bag or Jolly Ranchers.
- Construction paper to be used for making an animal food chain project. Please keep this in a safe place so it is still complete when it is time to work on the project.
- Finally, a lollipop for all the kids!

FALL CONFERENCES

As you know, we traditionally have a fall goal setting conference week. We are still going to do this, although it may look a little different than before.

I have set up a calendar on the class website for you to go and book a time that works for you. It is set up just like we did in August when we had our first, get acquainted, meetings.

I will get an email confirmation when you sign up. As I mention on the website, you will also get a confirmation email. With this email you will get a link. **Please do not use that link.** Use the standard parent link I have established. The button on the appointment page will take you to the correct link.

FYI, these conferences are considered optional this year.

MID-TRIMESTER PROGRESS

The Ellerbees have been working very hard since school began. Unlike last spring, assignments are all graded and at the end of the trimester there will be grades imputed on the report card. As a mid-tri check-in, I have filled out a progress report for all the students. I will be sending you individual emails with the progress reports attached.

Hopefully this will give you a little snapshot how things are going so far. I will address current grade averages, student strengths, and areas for growth. This will help drive our discussion when we meet.

USING THE LINCOLN AGENDA

I'm checking in to see how this went last week. Last Monday I wrote in my agenda and asked the students to write in their agendas along with me.

I modeled how to write the assignments, write the due dates, and write how to name the documents. I also suggested that they should always highlight what to name the document so that it stands out. I also said they should have a way to note when something is finished and another way to note when something was actually sent to me.

Just in case it is helpful, I am posting what I wrote in my agenda on the Weekly Email page on the website. You are more than welcome to do things differently. What works for one person doesn't always work for another person. But I think it is helpful to see an example?

READING ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

Thank you so much for all the wonderful moms and dads who stepped up to read *Island of the Blue Dolphins* with your child! I know of even one uncle who is doing this! Wow!

As the students learn how to go "under the ocean" it is so helpful to have someone to talk with to bounce ideas off of each other.

If you are the designated co-reader, please take the time to go back to the beginning of the book. It is important to read all of it to have a true understanding of what is happening, how the character is changing etc.

I am taking extra time with reading this week to offer more support as the Ellerbees learn how to do this. It takes a lot of inferring. I tell the students that many things in books the authors don't just come out and tell you. But they leave clues that readers use to figure out stuff.

So, last week, the challenge was to find evidence that Karana was happy when she was back on the island. This was not easy as the author never says it outright. However, some clues include

that she walked around the island and everything seemed wonderful to her. She even sang as she walked. She also worked hard on making a home for herself. If she was unhappy and wanted to leave the island, she probably would have been working on repairing the canoe. Please do not hesitate to ask me for some guidance. I am happy to give you a heads up on what I'm looking for. Just send me an email.

PANORAMA

If you gave your permission for your child to take the survey about his/her social emotional wellness, the information is on a form attached. Just in case, the attachment doesn't work, I will post the information on our website on the Weekly Email page.

Yet again, thank you for your patience. Please know I am available to meet with you, and I welcome your emails.

Here's to another week together!

Stay safe,

Ruth