

Dear Parents,

I think all the Ellerbees are excited about Halloween! Hopefully families are thinking of ways to celebrate even if normal trick or treating isn't happening. My granddaughter is going to go on a Halloween candy scavenger hunt in the house, and she is really excited!

I have been having so many wonderful and meaningful discussions with parents this past week! It is so great to have time to check in with each other and share and chat. I am getting some new insights and feedback that I value very much. I am looking forward to many more meetings this week!

On to stuff to know.

### **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

On Thursday before lunch we will be having a nontraditional Halloween party. Please check the Announcements page on our website. It gives some information to make sure everyone is prepared for our activities.

### **DEER HOLLOW VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP ON TUESDAY**

Another fun part of our week is our virtual field trip after lunch on Tuesday. I also added this to announcements, along with the link. However, in case that doesn't work, here is the link:

<https://mountainview.zoom.us/j/92195269429>

I'm not sure if you will need the meeting ID, but just in case:

Meeting ID: 921 9526 9429

As a reminder, **parent permission is required**. The link the district gave me last week apparently did not work, but you merely need to reply in an email that you give permission. I will post the pdf on the website on the Weekly Email page for your information.

### **PLEASE USE BLACK PEN FOR ASSIGNMENTS**

As you know, turning in work digitally poses many challenges. Most of these have been resolved. The students are getting so much better naming their emails and assignments! Woo Hoo!

One thing remains an issue. When pictures are taken, sometimes it is too far away from the assignment page. Sometimes it is actually out of focus. When this happens, I download the image and then need to zoom it a lot. Sometimes I literally have to

photoshop it to make it darker. This is very time consuming and I always worry about whether I am reading the work correctly. So, I have finally decided that it **needs to be a requirement for all students to write with black pen on their assignments**. I don't want any grades to be negatively affected merely because I can't read what was written. Thank you!

### **HALF DAYS THIS WEEK**

As you know, parent/teacher fall conferences are continuing this week. This means that there will be no classes after lunch. We will continue to meet in the mornings as normal. However, because the state has mandated no minimum days are allowed during this time, the district is requiring that teachers provide work for students to do in the afternoons. I have added in some extra assignments because of this requirement. However, I am trying to keep it minimal. Also, I am not adding any new "Wednesday Work" in order to make sure the students have time to get their work done.

### **LINCOLN PARENT COMMUNICATION OPTION**

You may be aware of this already but I wanted to let you know that there is a Lincoln family WhatsApp. Many parents are using this as a way to easily communicate about school events etc.

There is actually a Room 10 page so Room 10 parents can chat with each other. (Thank you, Helen Lin!) Just in case it is helpful, I am posting the QR code on the website on the Weekly Email page. Here is also a link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/Gtm3A4I7rae2DfDg9GTFOY>

### **YELLOW POST-ITS ONLY PLEASE**

Students are using post-its for many purposes. One of the main ones is to write their thinking down as they are reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Yet again, this is a readability issue (is that a real word?). When students write on darker post-its I often am unable to read what they wrote. So I am asking that students only use the standard yellow post-its. I really appreciate it!

### **LAST WEEK OF BOOK FAIR**

Just a quick reminder that this is the last week of our virtual Lincoln Scholastic Book Fair. I am not sure why the link on the website isn't working but hopefully this will work: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/lincolnelementaryschool31>

Looking forward to a fun week followed by a fun three day weekend. Wow!

Stay safe,

Ruth