

Dear Parents,

Are you ready for school to begin? Ready or not...here we go!

I really missed your wonderful children during these 9 days! Of course, it was great to sleep in a little and relax a little. But, I can truly say I missed seeing all their happy faces and chatting with them all. I also got a lot of "Happy Thanksgiving" emails from many Ellerbees, and they really warmed my heart. It really cemented for me that it is clearly possible to bond even when a relationship is formed purely online. I am so looking forward to seeing all the Ellerbees tomorrow! Although I can't say the same for setting my alarm clock early again! LOL!

On to stuff to know...

TUESDAY WILL NOT BE NORMAL

I will be working on report cards on Tuesday. So, the way it works is that we WILL meet from 8:30 to 9:00 for our morning meet. The students have 4 specific assignments to do on their own for the rest of the day. They may definitely work together if they would prefer that. They will all be language assignments and they are all explained on the Language/Grammar page on the website. They will NOT be assigned any reading, writing, science, or social studies for that day.

REPORT CARDS

That leads to a little more about report cards. Teachers need to have report cards completed by December 3 and the district will start uploading them on December 4. It appears unclear exactly when they can be viewed and if it might be staggered during the 3 days of uploading. However, the guarantee is that definitely by December 9 they will be posted for parents to access. If you have questions about this, please address Mrs. Kropp at: kropp_ann@cusdk8.org
FYI, you will see that the report card has been slightly edited a bit to adapt to changes due to online learning.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

I am trusting that this has been helpful for everyone. Last week I mentioned that I had added due dates for assignments. I think this might be particularly useful for math. That is because math is due differently than other assignments. You don't always know in advance when a page will be graded and therefore needs to be sent in that day. It is often the day after it is completed, but that is not always true.

So, for example, it will say something like:

Math 4.2 (complete Monday, turn in on Thursday when graded)

STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DONATION PROJECT

Our Student Council is coordinating a food donation project. All food collected will be donated to local charities. We are asking for canned goods and any dry goods such as pasta, cereal, crackers etc. Thanks for any donations you can contribute!

Please bring your donations to school from 11:30 to 12:30 on the following Wednesdays: December 2, December 9, and December 16.

MATERIALS PICK-UP DAY

The next materials pick up day will be on December 16. The time is tentatively set for 11:00 to 12:00, but the office gets the final say. I will provide more information next week.

ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

We are continuing to read this novel, and I want to give a heartfelt thanks to your willingness to read it along with your child! And, of course, the most important part of that is taking time to talk about the chapter and exchange ideas. This week we are going back to writing post-its while reading.

We have talked a lot about what “under the ocean” thinking looks like. We’ve taken a 2 week break from this (plus vacation) so I thought it might be helpful to reflect a bit on what the post-its should look like. (FYI, the following is also on the website.)

Example is from Chapter 21.

“BAD” EXAMPLE: Karana made a skirt.

Remember, it isn't about just saying what happened. That is just the plot.

“BETTER BUT NOT QUITE THERE” EXAMPLE: Karana was proud of her skirt.

Sharing an opinion or feeling about something is on the right track. But I have to actually guess what you are thinking.

“GOOD” EXAMPLE: Karana was so proud of her skirt that she shared it with Tutok even though she was a little scared of her.

Writing more to really explain why it mattered is your goal. It helps to put yourself in Karana’s place and think about what your feelings or reactions might be. It doesn’t have to be long but it has to be more than just a few words.

NAMING DOCUMENTS

I know, this is getting old! Please continue to help your child do this correctly. Go to the ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST page for a fast and easy reference. Teaching your child to do this automatically before sending in work would be a great habit to build.

STARTING OUR ELECTRICITY UNIT

We are finished with our animal environments and adaptations unit. We are beginning our unit about electricity. There will be two introductory YouTube videos for the Ellerbees to watch on Wednesday but there will not be any assignment. However, the actual thing that needs to be done this week is to make sure the bag of electricity supplies I sent home many weeks ago is found and put where your child can easily access it. We will start using these next week. Please keep all supplies safe as I will be asking for them to be returned one of these days. Thanks!

OWL PELLET SUPPLIES

I hope your child enjoyed doing our owl pellet activity. Please make sure the tools are safe in the bag and ready to be returned. Obviously, the owl pellet will not be returned. LOL!

Thanks, as always, for your patience as you read my long emails. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. Hopefully you had some great family time and a chance to unwind a little.

I am looking forward to tomorrow morning!!

Stay safe,

Ruth