

Dear Parents,

I hope only 4 days of school and less assignments last week was a welcome break! For me too! I had less grading to do! Ha ha!

This week we are going to be celebrating kindness. We are having Lincoln Kindness Week. So I am reflecting on how important and how powerful kindness is in our world. Always, of course. But somehow even more right now during the pandemic. I see so much kindness every day with all the wonderful Ellerbees! I've mentioned this before, but it never gets old! I am amazed at how they work together every day. They help each other with their schoolwork and even meet online to give support to each other. And I mean every day! I can honestly say that in class they NEVER get impatient or say something unkind. When we meet each day, it feels like a safe, warm, and happy place to be! I can't wait to hear about the random acts of kindness they will be inspired to do during the Lincoln Kindness Week! I am starting off the week with a surprise Act of Kindness. They are going to all get a gift of 10 individual points on Monday. But shhh...it is a secret until I announce it. I can't wait!

On to stuff to know...

BLUE DOLPHINS READING TEST

The dreaded week has arrived! We will be taking our first literature test.

This does affect the week quite a bit. We will be preparing for the test every day. On Monday, we will think about main characters, setting, main problem and solution. On Tuesday we will think about the 7 most important events in the book. On Wednesday, I am asking the Ellerbees to find a study buddy and do some review. On Thursday it will be a whole day of talking about theme and also in general reviewing. And the test will be on Friday. Because we are preparing for the test, I need to be able to give students feedback right away. So the work will be due the day we do it. Normally, other than math, most assignments are due on Friday. But that will not be the case this week.

MATERIALS PICK UP ON WEDNESDAY

We are going to have our Materials Pickup on Wednesday from 11:00 to 12:00. The weather report says rain, but we will do this rain or shine. I may be standing by the office under the roof overhang though! Please let me know if you can't make it and we can come up with an alternate day or time. Just a reminder, please do NOT return the electricity supplies. We will still be using those.

FYI, I am sending home:

1. An abalone shell gift (related to our Native American unit happening soon)
2. An arrowhead gift (a big thanks to Nicole's dad!)
3. A goody bag that should be saved until February 13, our Valentine's Day party (a big thanks to Charlie's mom for doing this again to help us celebrate!)
4. A special Ellerbee pencil (another thanks to Charlie's mom)
5. The NEW book we going to start reading, *How to Steal a Dog*. I copied these off so you don't have to worry about buying or finding a copy.
6. Some treats for the Ellerbees (of course!)
7. Individual Rewards for students who choose the type that needs to be sent home.

TURNING IN MATH

As you know, we turn math in differently than other assignments. The concept is that we do the work on the day it is assigned. Then, on the following math class, we grade it together. **The day we grade it, is the day it needs to be sent in.**

Although many Ellerbees are doing this on time, not everybody is doing this successfully. At this point, for awhile, we are going to go to Plan B. I will require students to turn in their graded math before they can leave math class. Since it is already completed and graded, it literally takes less than 5 minutes to send it in. I definitely DO understand that there are households that have legitimate reasons that it cannot get sent in right away. As long as we are in contact, I am happy to make exceptions. However, it is important that it does get turned in by the end of that day. Once we get into the habit, we won't need to keep doing this.

There is also one more difficulty that happens. When we do math on Friday, we grade it on Monday. Often on Monday students realize they have forgotten to do the work or they can't remember where they put it. I completely understand this! I tend to be that person who would forget! So thanks for helping to brainstorm with your child about a good way to remember. I always tell the Ellerbees to put things in one specific place where it belongs. Then you probably won't lose it. I always try to follow this advice myself. When I set something down in the wrong place, I always scold myself as I look for it frantically! LOL!

AMAZON SMILE HELPS LINCOLN SCHOOL

Have you heard of Amazon Smile? It is pretty awesome. You log in via Amazon Smile and you shop on Amazon like normal. But, magically, Amazon will send a small percentage to the charity/cause of your choice. Once you get started, you even get a reminder to choose Amazon smile and you just hit the link. It is so easy! And, it is such a great way to support Lincoln and LEEF! And it costs you nothing. Now that is a win/win!

If you are interested, you can get started by going to Amazon Smile. Then choose "Lincoln Education Enrichment Fund" as the charity to support.

LINCOLN YEARBOOK

John Ling, our wonderful Lincoln dad who is trying to get a yearbook made this crazy year, is continuing to ask for families to send it pictures. The Drop Box link for our class is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/mqiDpdbX7CjRucFvzfl6>

Please consider sending in pictures. Just FYI, schoolwide the response has been low. We totally understand that everyone is overwhelmed right now. It is definitely NOT life as normal. However, without enough pictures John may not be able to complete this project. A big thanks for anything you can send in. It's also a fun way to make sure your child has a LOT of pictures in the yearbook. Ha ha!

Looking forward to saying hi on Wednesday. Maybe it won't be pouring rain???

Stay safe,
Ruth