

January 8, 2018

Dear Upper School Families,

Thanks to Annie for driving the rental van on Thursday and bringing Ella along to share the trip with us. Also, thanks so much to Jennifer Smoot for driving on our field trip to St. Louis. It was so nice to get to know our new student's (Avree's) mom. We had a truly fun and educational time at the St. Louis Science Center. The Tut exhibit was amazing and really made us feel like we were part of the whole discovery of the tomb by Howard Carter. Thanks so much to the anonymous donor who made it all possible for our class.

This week is scheduled to be a full week, so we will have a full list of 20 vocabulary words selected from science and social studies. The list is attached to the email with this newsletter. Going home Monday will be graded work folders from December and last week. Please review your students' work and then sign the slip in the folder and return the folder and work to the school by Friday, January 12.

Students will have homework in the form of reading, writing, and research on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursday. This means that 4th through 6th graders will spend an hour on this each night with 20 minutes devoted to each. Seventh and 8th graders will spend an hour and a half on this each night with 30 minutes devoted to each. Students choose what they are going to read, research, and write about. Each student chose the holiday they would be researching and reporting on to the class on February 14. I will have a listing of the holidays and requirements attached with this newsletter. This is our lead-in to our big research project that is presented at the open house in May.

We will be studying the structure of Earth in science. We are working on Egyptian mythology and our book groups for social studies. In ELA we are going to be working on the writing process and revision. We will also be learning how to take notes and record the sources we use as we do our holiday reports.

Thursday night at 6:00 is our next school board meeting. Please remember that Friday is a noon dismissal with childcare. Monday, January 15 there is no school and Tuesday, January 16 we will be going on another field trip. We will be going to the Carson Center in Paducah to see *Alice in Wonderland*. We will be leaving the school around 9:00 and returning by 3:30. Since it will be so cold, we will not be able to picnic in the park, so we plan on having lunch at Panera, so students should bring enough money to cover their lunch there

Again, we need the following items:

college ruled loose leaf paper and 2018 calendars. (Thanks to Avree's grandmother for donating these for us.)

Best wishes,

Carla

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 11: School Board Meeting at 6:00

Friday, January 12: Noon Dismissal with childcare

Monday, January 15: Holiday-No School

Tuesday, January 16: Field Trip to Carson Center in Paducah.

Vocabulary Words for the Week of January 8-12, 2018

1. **crust:** layer of rock that forms Earth's outer skin. It is a layer of solid rock that includes both dry land and the ocean floor.
2. **mantle:** middle layer of Earth's interior made up of rock that is very hot, but solid. It is divided into layers based on the physical characteristics of those layers. It is nearly 3,000 km thick.
3. **core:** the innermost layer of Earth's interior that includes both inner and outer sections. The outer section is a layer of molten metal that surrounds the inner layer. The inner layer is a dense ball of solid metal that remains solid because of the intense pressure. Both sections are made mainly of iron and nickel.
4. **radiation:** the transfer of heat energy through space.
5. **conduction:** the transfer of heat energy within a material or between materials that are touching.
6. **convection:** the transfer of heat energy by the movement of currents within a fluid.
7. **density:** the measure of how much mass there is in a volume of a substance.
8. **continental drift:** theory that the continents of Earth were once joined together and have slowly moved apart over Earth's surface.
9. **Pangaea:** super continent formed when all the continents were together.
10. **fossil:** any trace of an ancient organism that is preserved in rock.

11. **mid-ocean ridge:** an undersea mountain chain where new ocean floor is produced.

12. **sea-floor spreading:** the spreading of the sea floor along both sides of a mid-ocean ridge as new crust is added.

13. **subduction:** the process by which the ocean floor sinks beneath a deep-ocean trench and back into the mantle.

14. **plate tectonics:** scientific theory that explains the formation, movement, and subduction of Earth's plates.

15. **pharaoh:** ruler of ancient Egypt

16. **obelisk:** a tall four-sided stone pillar that tapers to a point like a pyramid.

17. **scarab:** sacred dung beetle that symbolized the Sun-god Khepri.

18. **Anubis:** jackal-god of embalming

19. **Thoth:** moon god responsible for medicine, mathematics, and writing.

20. **Horus:** sky god often shown with the head of a hawk. The Egyptians believed that the pharaoh was the "living Horus" and was therefore a god himself.

Holiday Reports for 2018

All students must find information about their holiday to present in an oral report to their classmates. These reports should be 5-10 minutes each. Students must also keep a record of the sources they obtained their information from. Students may use written notes to give their reports.

Each report should include:

History of the holiday.

Where the holiday is celebrated?

What types of activities are involved in the celebration?

When is the holiday celebrated?

Why is the holiday celebrated?

Is there special clothing, decorations, food involved?

Students need to also prepare one food associated with the holiday to share with the class. Basically, we will be celebrating each holiday in class on the day of the presentations.

Students chose the following holidays:

Alex & Annie: Chinese New Year

Avree: Halloween

Bo: New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

Ellie: Mardi Gras

Gabrielle: Easter

Gavyn: Christmas

Keira: Summer Solstice

Kloey: Fourth of July

Timothy: Boxing Day