

12 October 2018

Dear Upper School family and friends,

I am writing this while the students are writing in their Friday journals. Every Friday morning, students choose a journal by topic as they arrive. The earlier they get here, the more options they have available. They then write nonstop for 25 minutes about that topic. It helps build writing stamina as well as gets them used to writing about different topics that they might not choose for themselves. I have written in the Friday journals in the past and it really is a pretty fun exercise.

I enjoyed talking to a few of you on the playground this morning. As a reminder, I will always let you know if the graded work folders are or aren't going home. The times they don't go home are during short weeks or right at conference time. I also want to clarify that students can work ahead to do their *Reading, Writing, and Research*. The students have been told this, but they don't always remember these details until they need to use them and then ask again. Just to clarify, the total for 7th and 8th graders is 2 hours each of reading, writing and research and for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders it would be 1 hour and 20 minutes each. I have been encouraging them to set a timer since they often have difficulty judging the time.

Our class is going to have a trivia team for the upcoming trivia night on Friday, October 26. The doors open at 5:30 and the contest starts at 6:00. Please let me know if you will be able to take your child to Mackie's pizza that night. I will be taking some of the students who need rides. We would love to have more parents sign up for teams and of course bring their child to be on the class team. Last year's trivia night was a blast and this year's event will be even more fun since Mackie's has table service. The teachers are forming a team this year, so feel free to come out and try to beat us or see if your team is "smarter than a fifth grader" team.

We will be making muffins on Monday. If you have any muffin tins even very small ones to loan us for the day, it is very appreciated.

On Wednesday, October 24, we are having individual student pictures taken. The photographer is always happy to take family pictures even if the students are in different grades

or buildings. Be sure to let us know if you are interested in that, because the students don't always remember.

This letter will mainly be reminders, so I can get it out early. (You probably already noticed that.)

If you need a project for completing your service hours (trimester ends November 1) please consider water sealing our picnic tables in the area. Since the weather has cooled off, we would like to be able to start to eat in the area.

There seems to be a bug going around that involves stomach issues. It usually only lasts a day and we are continuing to disinfect doorknobs and other items that many hands touch as well as checking on handwashing to we can halt the bug as soon as possible.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I usually do not check email over weekends, but my phone is 618-889-5313 and I have unlimited texting. I really appreciate all the parents who keep me informed about the well-being of their kids so I do not worry. Have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

Carla

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 17: Paducah Field Trip (Departure: 0940)

Thursday, October 25: School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Friday, October 26: Trivia Night (Sign up for team)

Wednesday, October 31: Field Trip to CCHS (Departure 0845) Movie Party

Thursday, November 1: Dia de los Muertes (Noon Dismissal)

Friday, November 2: No School or Childcare for Institute Day