

Good evening!

I am sorry this is going out so late, but it was a very busy weekend. I was in the classroom today building a cage for our new class pet- Rita the Rabbit. Rita is Sam's bunny that was supposed to move to college with him..... He (yes, he) is a bit shy, so I will be asking the kids to respect his space until he gets acclimated to the classroom. It should be fun and I will see what kind of fun things we can construct for his cage.

We had a class talk about treating each other with respect and kindness. I explained to the students that if they feel they are being treated unfairly or unkindly, it is important to let myself or someone on staff know immediately so we can address the problem in a timely manner. We discussed how to address situations in a kinder, more respectful way, and students had a lot of great suggestions on how to address and diffuse situations in a way that is effective and respectful. I will keep a close eye on things and will let parents know if I see any situations that need to be addressed.

On an academic note, we are now studying the Southeast states in social studies. We will have a test later this week, covering the capitals, location, and abbreviations, for the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas, West Virginia, and Florida.

We are studying cells and classification in science. The kids came up with a lot of clever ways to remember Domain, Kingdom, Phyla, Class, Order, Family, Genus, and Species. I anticipate a test in science on Friday. One student suggested making edible models of cells. I think that sounds like fun. I will see if it's something they can do at school, maybe using cakes. If anyone has an idea, let me know!

On Friday, we watched the original Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. I think everyone enjoyed it. We should be wrapping up that book in the next week or so. If time permits, one parent suggested watching the newer version and having students write a comparison paper about the two and the book. I like that idea and think it would be a fun and educational activity for students.

I think students are enjoying our poetry in the morning. I have been amazed at some of their insights. We have looked at William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg, and Shel Silverstein. This week, we will be reading Robert Frost.

Finally- students have not been tearing math pages out of their Go Math books this year. Last year, we found that tearing out pages made it difficult to go back and look at prior lessons if there was a question about something we were studying. If you would like to check your child's progress, feel free to stop in the classroom to take a look at their book, or let me know and we can send the book home.

The potluck dinner is this Thursday at 5:30. Our class made desserts which will be served at the dinner. The Board meeting will immediately follow and all parents are welcome. We are having an Usborne Book Fair that day, from 2:30 to 7:00 pm. Also, don't forget the Golf Scramble is next weekend.

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know-

Heather