

Good afternoon!

Next week is a very short week. Monday is a regular school day. On Tuesday, we have the family read-along from 10:30 -11:00, where you can come and spend time in our classroom. At 11:00, the Thanksgiving Feast begins downstairs. Student dismissal is following the feast. We are off until Monday, December 2nd.

We will be starting new books in language arts. Fourth/Fifth graders will be reading *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl. Sixth through eighth grade will be reading *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. We did some research on the books and authors this week. I think everyone was amazed to learn S.E. Hinton wrote *The Outsiders* when she was in high school. Along with reading the book, we will have comprehension, writing, and vocabulary lessons which correspond with the books.

We will have a test in social studies on Tuesday morning (November 26th). Students will be given a list of words for notecards along with some topics to consider and review. We are starting a unit on plants in science. I am going to change how we do our daily science assignments, since the content of the lessons is somewhat complex. Instead of making daily science assignments due at noon, they will be due at 8 am the following morning. That way, students can have more time to review and re-read the lesson and consider the short answer questions. That will also give parents a chance to familiarize themselves with what we are studying in class.

With that in mind, please make sure your students are remembering to bring books and assignments back to school. I have talked to the class about establishing a routine at home with respect to completing work (do it right after school, before or after dinner, etc) and where to put books and work so they aren't forgotten the following day. When math books aren't brought back, students either have to copy another student's pages or they don't get their work done and they fall behind. I know this has been a problem with Spanish homework as well. Work that is not brought back in or is forgotten at home will be considered late and points will be taken off.

I will be emailing a sign-up sheet for conferences. They will be held all day on December 19th and in the morning on December 20th. If you

know of a particular time that works better for you, please let me know and I will mark my calendar.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me-

Heather