

Dear Parents,

We have hit the ground running this year. The children are starting to get used to the routine. Overall I have been very pleased with their behavior and progress. They have been very flexible with the lack of internet and other technologies with which they were accustomed.

We graded the homework packets that I sent home last week. Thank you for any help you may have given. I intend for the packets to be a review and refresher of skills that we have covered in class. If you and your child are agonizing over it, please contact me so we can discuss the situation. You can expect a packet most weeks. I will let you know in the class letter if there will not be a packet for the week. Thus, you will know whether or not to ask your child to see it. The September calendar with which to record the days your child read for 20 minutes is due on September 30.

The children have a book report that is due Friday, October 25th. I attached a form to this letter. Please make sure that your child reads a new book for the report. I don't want them to use a book that was read over the summer. It should take them several nights to read. I told them that for most of them it needed to be a chapter book.

In reading, the classroom structure that I use is a variation of the Daily 5 and Guided Reading. The goal is a literacy structure that teaches independence and gives the children the skills needed to create a lifetime love of reading and writing. I am introducing the children to tasks such as *Read to Self*, *Work on Writing*, *Read to Someone*, *Listen to Reading*, and *Word Work*. We are working toward the children being able to complete these tasks independently and with stamina.

In math we are beginning with simple addition and subtraction. I was surprised at how many children are stumbling over addition with regrouping. (Example: $147 + 278 = \underline{\quad}$) Please check to see how shaky your child may be on this essential skill. We will be revisiting it in class throughout the year.

If you would like to chaperone for the field trip to Severson Dells on Friday, Oct 4th, please return the chaperone and lunch form Monday. We need to make sure everyone who wishes to go has a current background check completed. Additionally, I have attached a letter from Severson Dells on the back of this letter giving more detail about our field trip. I have told the children that they will be getting their feet wet, so they should wear old shoes. They will be walking in a stream and pond.

I have attached a conference letter to this packet. Please let me know when you are able to join me for conferences. I would really like you to bring your child with you so we may share joys and concerns with him/her.

Have a great weekend!

Thank You, Betsy Burgoyne