

October 25, 2019
Homework Packet #7

Dear Parents,

Last Saturday I spent the whole day at school participating in a phenomenal teachers' professional development seminar. Mrs. Timm brought Jen Jones, a K-12 reading specialist, and national trainer to Cherry Valley. The topic was reading and guided reading groups. Just in case you were worried about it, there is no truth whatsoever to the old adage *you can't teach an old dog (me) new tricks!* © Mrs. Jones confirmed quite a few of the strategies I already use in reading groups with your children, however I also learned about some others that I intend to implement in the classroom. One of the ideas was for silent reading time. To encourage the children to read more Mrs. Jones suggested that book totes were an excellent answer to the age old problem "Ms. B. I'm done with this book, may I go find another?" Inevitably the child spends the entire silent reading center looking for a new book. Predictably six other children decide they, also, are done with their books, and hit the book shelves...you can imagine, I am sure. Mrs. Jones's answer to that scenario was to have the children 'shop' in the classroom library once a week for 8 books to be put in the bag. Thus the child loses the need to find a new book as they have plenty in their bag. I loved this idea, and want to utilize it in our room. I am hoping that you have an inexpensive extra cloth bag or two (approximately 12-14 inches by 12-14 inches) lying around your house that you would be willing to donate to the classroom. Pictures of what I have in mind are below.



If you have any extra bags you would be willing to donate, I would really appreciate them also. Please don't send any bag you are not willing to lose or have ruined. Accidents do happen, and I would feel awful if something happened to a one of a kind bag that can't be replaced.

In reading the guided reading groups and tutor schedules are starting to smooth out. We are working on math vocabulary, adjectives, and story elements (character, setting, and problem). The reading groups are each reading books at their own levels and practicing using these skills in their text at their level. In math we continue working on the multiplication and division using repeated addition and math number bonds. In writing we still have some editing to do on the thank you notes. We have almost sixty notes (each child is writing to one chaperone and one donor) which need to be individually edited with each child to put our best foot forward. We want to make a good impression, you know. There is only so much time in a day to complete these and all of the other subjects. © The notes are not perfect, but they are a vast improvement on where we started.

Reminder... tonight is PTO's Fall Fest. It will be here at school from 5-8pm. The children are welcome to wear costumes. I have been watching all the preparation and candy walking in the door all week! Please come and enjoy the evening with all the other Cherry Valley families. Remember the children are not allowed to wear costumes to school on Halloween. Our celebration is on Friday night in costumes.

Have a great weekend! Thank You, Betsy Burgoyne