

October 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

I am sending this note out a day early because of the field trip. The classes who went earlier this week have been returning very close to the end of the day. We may not have time to return to the classroom on Friday before the bell rings. Thus, I wanted to make sure the note arrived this week.

The Severson Field trip takes place tomorrow! We can't wait. The forecast is calling for a cooler morning, so please be sure to dress your child in layers of clothes, tennis shoes, and raincoats or ponchos if it looks like it is going to rain. We will go out in the rain unless there are thunderstorms. Also please remember to send a lunch and dry shoes and pants. The children will be bringing their backpacks, so they can carry their stuff.

In reading we continue to practice centers and prepare for what will be expected of the children when I am holding guided reading groups. I am planning on starting guided reading groups the week of 10/14. We are also working on the concepts of main idea and story structure (character, setting, and plot). It would help at home if you pointed out some of the same structure in TV shows or movies you are watching. In math we have begun working on multiplication and division. We are learning that multiplication is repeated addition. We are concentrating on $\times 2$ and $\div 2$.

Conferences will be held next week. I have put the conference schedule on the back of this piece of paper. If you cannot attend your conference please give me a call so we can find a new time. Please bring your child to the conference if at all possible. I want the students to begin take responsibility for their own learning and education. Part of that is taking ownership of their performance in school.

Have a great weekend!

Thank You, Betsy Burgoyne

10 Questions to Ask Your Child About His/Her Day at School ---Copied from *Scholastic Parent Magazine*
Get a sense of your child's life at school by asking questions that elicit more than a one-word response.

The trick is to ask about things that are specific, but still open-ended. Move beyond "fine" and "nothing" by asking your child to describe his world. It's also great to start the conversation with an anecdote from your own day. Try one of these conversation-starters:

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Did any of your classmates do anything funny?
4. Tell me about what you read in class.
5. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
6. Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
7. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
8. What rules are different at school than our rules at home? Do you think they're fair?
9. Who did you sit with at lunch?
10. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?