

November 1, 2019
Homework Packet #8

Dear Parents,

I have been meaning to talk to you about *The Growth Mindset*. You will see a reference to it on your child's report card: *Perseverance and Growth Mindset* is one of the categories that falls under focus. *The Growth Mindset* is a philosophy that the Rockford Public Schools has adapted. I am a firm believer in the power of the Growth Mindset. You can look it up online to learn more about it, but in short, it is a belief that there are two ways a person views the world and uses his or her brain. One way is the Fixed Mindset which assumes intelligence and other qualities, abilities and talents are fixed traits that cannot be significantly developed. An example of this might be someone who says, "I'm just not a math person. Math is beyond me" or "I'm not good enough to make the basketball team, so I am not going to try." The second is the Growth Mindset. With the Growth Mindset we believe that intelligence and other qualities, abilities and talents are not fixed traits or that we are born with only so much of them. Rather, with effort and perseverance all students are capable of learning every subject. An example of this might be "I haven't learned this math, yet" or "I want to play on the basketball team, let's make a plan to get me there." There are things you can do at home to promote the Growth Mindset.

- Encourage your child to take risks and tackle new challenges at school.
- Praise your child not for the ease with which he/she learns a new concept but for the amount of effort put into learning it.
- Emphasize perseverance and effort in extracurricular activities. For example, "I am proud of how much effort you put into that basketball game" instead of I am proud of how many points you scored in that basketball game."

In reading we are working on math vocabulary, adverbs, and story elements main idea, (character, setting, and problem). In math we are wrapping up the first wave of multiplication and division using repeated addition and math number bonds this week. The following week we will start rounding and 3 digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We will circle back to multiplication and division after Christmas break. In writing we are working on a personal narrative which we will publish. Your child has a mystery book report due on Friday, December 6. I have enclosed the form with questions about the book. I also enclosed the November calendar with which to record your child's 20 minute daily reading.

On Wednesday we will start a four session D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program with a certified instructor from the Cherry Valley Police Department. Our D.A.R.E. officer comes to school to talk to the children about rules and laws, good medication, drugs and alcohol, gangs, and how to say no. D.A.R.E. was founded in 1983 and has proven so successful that it has been implemented in thousands of schools throughout the United States and 50+ other countries. D.A.R.E. is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

Last week I wrote and asked for any extra cloth bags you may have laying around the house. If you have any extra bags you would be willing to donate, I would really appreciate it.

Enclosed you will find a permission slip and letter for our next field trip to the Coronado Theater to view the Nutcracker Ballet. It is free for both your child and the chaperones. If you would like to chaperone, please text me or send the note in right away. I can only take four parents with me, since there is limited seating.

Have a great weekend! Thank You, Betsy Burgoyne