

September 13, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been another great week! I have been having an excellent time getting to know your children. We have been taking some baseline tests and I have been informally observing the children's progress so that we know where to start the year. This week I have been testing the children to determine reading levels. The testing was done with each individual child to see how many words per minute are read, and are the words read smoothly and with expression. This is called fluency in teacher speak. The children should at 100-120 words per minute by the end of third grade. I will also be determining reading levels using the Fountas and Pinnell reading levels.

The challenge this week has been the lack of technology. The school district is predicting that it will be Friday of next week before it is ready to go. I should have administered several benchmark tests this week via computers to help determine where each child is academically. We will have to wait for a while before we are able to do that.

In reading we have been working on choosing books to read that are the right fit for us. We are using the **I-Pick** method. The children should keep that following criteria in mind when choosing a book to read;

I select a book and look it over inside and out.

Purpose: why might I want to read it?

Interest: Does it interest me?

Comprehend: Do I understand what I am reading?

Know: Do I know most of the words?

I am sending home the first homework packet this week. The children will have a week to complete the work. It is due a week from today on Friday, September 20th. Please remember to have the children read 20 minutes every day including weekends. We have been working on stamina in class and have worked our way up to reading for 20 minutes at a time in the classroom. So, I know that your child can do it. Please sign/initial the calendar indicating that your child has read on a specific day. We are using the monthly calendar in your child's orange folder for this purpose. The children will earn rewards every week for their reading.

Severson Dells is the destination for our first field trip on Friday, Oct. 5. There is no cost for students or chaperones. I secured *The Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* from the State of Illinois to pay for the field trip. I have enclosed the field trip permission slip, and chaperone/lunch slip. If you are able to chaperone we would love to have you.

Please return the chaperone and lunch form by Friday, September 20th so that we may make sure everyone who wishes to go has a current background check completed.

Have a great weekend! Remember Picture Day is on Wednesday.

Thank You,
Betsy Burgoyne