

Dear Families,

24 September 2010

We have had a great week together! The kids are doing a great job learning our classroom routines and how we help each other work together and practice self control. They are really coming together and I am so proud of them!

Included in this Friday Folder are papers from the last two weeks. (I was out last Friday because my husband had shoulder surgery.) Some of the papers are marked with a number grade out of 10 possible points. Others just have a star or smiley face. Since we are learning and practicing many concepts, I am not grading every assignment based on the points system yet. The beginning of the year is filled with many opportunities for practicing and reviewing. Eventually, all assignments will come home with points values. Last week's spelling test is also included in the Friday Folder but today's test will come home next week.

Also included in this FF are two book orders. There are many great books in these first two orders and I wanted to share them with you. The kids are excited about many of the books! All book orders are due next week Friday. Please make your checks payable to Scholastic. I can also accept cash and then write the check for combined orders if you are a cash-friendly family. ☺

Finally, a morning snack request... Thank you for sending in healthy snacks for your child. The kids always look forward to snack! I have one request - if you are sending in a snack that needs a spoon (yogurt, applesauce, fruit cups), please include a spoon with your snack. We have gone through a box of spoons already and have run out. It is just easier if everyone has their own spoon, plus it reduces waste. Thank you!

#### Academic Update

- ✠ Religion - We have learned about using God's word to guide our paths and how the Church brings us closer to God. We also did a special activity today with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddies to help us use God's word as a 'lamp for our feet'.
- ✠ Math - We have finished chapter one and will be reviewing before a short chapter test next week. MMF is also going very well. I think we have gotten everyone's goals adjusted as needs and the kids are making great progress! Our next chapter is about comparing and rounding whole numbers.
- ✠ Science - We redid our lab from last week - stinky pea seeds! EW!! We are going to plant the seeds in different settings to compare what plants need to grow successfully in different environments and how plants react to change.

- ‡ SS - We will begin our chapter about Michigan's geography next week. This is mostly a review chapter and will include information about our landforms and climate. Thank you to the many parents who joined us in Lansing last week!
- ‡ Spelling - Thank you for helping your child study their words by completing their "spelling points!" The kids brought in great examples and I can tell they liked having the opportunity to choose how to study.
- ‡ Reading - Our story *Cliff Hanger* was a great one! The kids practiced making predictions, checking for understanding, looking for "wonderful words" and then inferring what those words meant, rather than just reading over them. Please encourage your reader to continue to practice these reading skills at home when they are reading. Daily reading is an expectation in third grade, even when it is not written in their planners. It is just something smart people do and these kids are SMART! ☺

Don't forget to visit Art Prize this weekend and enjoy the cooler weather...Fall is just around the corner!

Also, Monday is a non-uniform day for pictures. ☺ Smile!

Blessings,

Abby VanDyke