

Friday, September 16, 2022

Calendar Highlights:

Ropes Course Trip (Elbow Lane): Thursday, September 22nd and Friday, September 23rd

Peace Valley Trip: Tuesday, October 4th

(For both trips, students should dress for the weather.)

Picture Day: Friday, October 14th *(Picture forms should be sent home soon.)*

Dear Parents,

I hope this note finds you and your family happy and well! It has been a great first three weeks, and I am enjoying getting to know all of my students. The thought of spending the year with them brings me such joy. 😊

On a monthly basis (roughly), I send this newsletter out. I will e-mail them to you, as well as post them on my website, just in case.

❖ **Ropes Course**

A letter from Mr. Foster, detailing the trip (as well as a required waiver), was sent home with students last week. Many families have already paid via MyPaymentsPlus, but I just wanted to give another reminder: the online payment and permission forms, as well as a hard copy of the waiver, are due by Monday. If you have any difficulty, please let me know and I am happy to work with you. Additional reminders: Please send your child with water (Sugary drinks attract bees, so please try not to send them.), a disposable lunch, and have your child dress for the weather (layers are recommended).

❖ **Peace Valley Trip**

Our trip to Peace Valley is on October 4th. This trip is part of our science curriculum. We will be studying our local ecology and weather. Because we spend the trip outdoors, please have your child dress for the weather. There is no cost for this trip and a permission form and further details will be sent home soon. It is a half-day trip, so we will eat lunch in the Bridge Valley cafeteria.

❖ What We Have Been Working On

In **social studies**, we have been working on note-taking methods and skills, while addressing the content in Chapter 3. Chapter 3 focuses on seven Native American cultural regions. There will be an “open notes” test, at the end of the chapter, next week. For this assessment, there is nothing that students need to study- they will use their notes to complete the test.

In **reading**, students have been using our standardized reading materials, MyView, to work through a unit entitled, “*Journeys*.”

In **language arts**, we are working with informative writing. Students are just finishing up a paragraph discussing their favorite food. Next, students will be researching and generating a 5-6 paragraph informative/research paper on a Native American tribe.

❖ Homework

I just wanted to provide a reminder about homework- especially reading. As I presented at Back to School Night, homework will consist primarily of mathematics and (independent) reading. I am hoping that you can assist me by making sure that your child has the time and space to engage in independent reading, for about 20-30 minutes, each evening.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Know that I will contact you if any concerns arise on my end.

May your heart be filled with peace,
and the beauty of an approaching autumn,
Mr. VanZant