

Gator Bits

November 2009

Volume 12, Issue 3

Greetings Parents:

Hello again, I certainly hope all is well. It is hard to believe that one quarter of the year has passed already!

I hope my expectation for homework each night is working for you! Just a reminder fifty minutes Monday through Thursday evening is all I expect. Please keep it to fifty minutes! I would like to see 15 minutes spent on reading, 5 on their journal, 15 on math, and the remaining 15 split between spelling and studying all subject areas. I realize that math might require a little extra time because of the new material that we are learning. On Friday I am asking the children to read and complete a journal. Also, depending on how the kids work in class they may need to finish classwork activities from that day.

The journal entry needs to be a paragraph, 5-7 sentences. Each night the paragraph should follow the same format. The explanation is included in the front of their journal.

At this point the kids appear to understand the homework for spelling. I only need the form returned on Friday/the day of the test.

As for math homework, all assignments will be assigned from their math books. The study links is the homework, and the math journal is for classwork. NEW for unit 4 all students need to complete every math journal page and problem for unit 4. The kids will be assigned all of these pages in class, but may need to finish them at home. This is extremely important because the study guide references math journal pages. If you have any question on an answer just circle it, and have your child ask me. As for the study guide, it will be given the first day of the unit. It will be placed in the take home folder, or their blue math folder. Also, a copy is posted on the school website. Use this tool nightly to prepare for the test.

I will also ask that your child study over the work completed in class for science or social studies. Each night students will be bringing home all materials to look over (journals, folders, and all three math books). I am looking for students to be able to explain what they learned, not memorize what is on the papers. One suggestion for you at home is to ask your child questions that dig deep. "How is what you

Gator Bits

November 2009

Volume 12, Issue 3

learned going to help you?" "How is what you learned today related to what you did yesterday or last week?" Please use the homework hints that I sent home at conferences.

CALENDAR for NOVEMBER

- 2nd – 9:15 am Star Citizen Assembly
- 3rd – 1-2 pm Chemistry Lesson by Army Corps of Engineers
- 4th – Final Day for Can Goods for Harvest for the Hungry
- 4th – 1 pm Early Dismissal
- 5th – Conference Day (No School)
- 6th – No School
- 11th – 1:30 pm Body Safety Lesson by Mrs. Buchanan
- 12th – 9:15 am Assembly by Curtis Blue
- 16th – American Education Week – Grandparents Day
- 18th – American Education Week – Fifth Grade Day
- 20th – 10:40-12:35 pm Planetarium Visit
- 24th – 1:30 pm Mayflower Reenactment led by the PTA-PEP
- 25th – 1:30 Early Dismissal

CURRICULUM

Writing – The students will spend this month working on informative writing.

Reading – The students will be reading short stories from their anthology. The stories this month deal with the theme of achieving team goals.

Math – The students will complete a unit on division using the partial quotients and standard algorithm.

Science – The students will work on a Weather and Astronomy unit.

Social Studies- The students will continue to work on a unit called “Encounters” that deals with the relationships between the Native Americans, Europeans, and West Africans.

Gator Bits

November 2009

Volume 12, Issue 3

OTHER BITS

I will send home scholastic orders on Thursdays, and they will be due the following Friday. If you would like to place an order please feel free. I will set up an online ordering procedure this month if you would like to take advantage of that method. Just let me know if you need my ordering information. Please make sure to make checks payable to SCHOLASTIC, and please don't send in cash. Thanks! The past few weeks I haven't been sending home forms since the Book Fair was held in October!

As always if you have any questions just let me know.

Jason.Parks@hcps.org, or 410-638-4190.

Take care,
Mr. Parks