

May 29, 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a nice weekend. We will be busy the last few weeks of school.

Upcoming events in June!

June 13th: VES **Field Day**

June 15th: Field trip to **Great Bay Discovery Center**. Please look for a permission slip in your child's folder.

June 22nd: Students will meet their Second Grade Teacher. First Grade Teachers will accompany the children during their visit to CRES.

June 23rd : 1/2 day and Class **End of the Year Celebration**

Social Studies: We have been learning about the seven continents. The best part was singing "We've got the Whole Globe in Our Hands". The catchy tune makes learning the continents easy! We also cut out Continent Cards with the Continents and Facts about the continents. They can be used to play a matching game. We attempted to glue the continents on a ball we painted. This project ended up being time consuming. I started by meetings a few students at a time, however it soon became clear that it was taking too much time. Next year the first grade teachers will make changes to this lesson since many of us had a similar experience. I will be sending the globes home in a baggie if you would like to finish this optional project at home. This was a case where the process (they know their continents) was better than the end project. Thank you for your understanding.

Science: We will be learning about Estuaries and about plants and animals. Students will learn about how animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves,

move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water and air.

Math: Students will be completing an End of the Year Math Assessment. First Grade Math Journals will also be sent home along with other workbooks. The journals will not be corrected in a formal way. The purpose of the journals was to practice skills. Classroom assessments are used to grade the Standards on our Reporting Tool.

Writing: We will be finishing our Realistic Fiction writing lessons. Your child will also be writing a page for a class book "Our First Grade Classmates". Students will also be writing a letter to their Second Grade teacher.

Assigned Read to the Class Day: Please help your child select a book to read to the class. The schedule and criteria for your child's "Read to the Class" day is posted below. Your child should practice his/her book using the guidelines. We have gone over the following guidelines and discussed what makes a good "read out loud" book.

Introduction

- Name of the book
- Author and illustrator

Reading

- Pause after each sentence
- Raise voice at the end of a question sentence
- Drop voice at the end of a telling sentence

Body

- Sit tall
- Body still

Voice

- Clear
- Loud enough

Picture Showing

- Open the book wide
- Front of chest and under chin
- Sweep from side to side
- Move slowly enough so that all children can see

Ending

- Why you liked the story and pictures
- Mention favorite part
- Ask classmates which parts of the story they liked

Read to the Class Schedule!

- June 9th Emerson, Lucas
- June 12th Abby, Kaiden,
- June 13th Declan, Austin, Gavin
- June 14th Miribelle, Henry
- June 15th Bella, Choley, Sophie
- June 16th Gabe, Adi, Quin

I hope daily reading will part of your child's summer. When you are picking books for summer reading please remind your child of the "bike story." I heard this many years ago at a literacy conference. The teacher used an analogy to help students decide what books to read.

"Picture yourself trying to ride up a gigantic hill.... huffing and puffing.. going so slowly that you might even have to get off. It's not much fun. That's like reading a too challenging book. Now imagine that you are riding down a gigantic hill... it's so easy that you don't even have to try.... you just whiz right though it. That's like reading a too easy book. What we need to shoot for are those flat-road books... you might hit some bumps (hard words) ... and you have to do some work, but it doesn't kill you!"

Volunteers: Thank you for your support this year. A few years ago I stopped giving small gifts to volunteers and instead I donate to a charity as a way of honoring parent volunteers. I try to find a charity which has a connection to our class in some way. I have not chosen a charity yet, but I will let you know once I have made a selection.

End of the Year Celebration: If you are free on Friday, June 23rd from 10:15–11:15, please join us for an end of the year celebration. The children will show off their math skills, share a piece of writing, and we will view a slide show of our year together. I will also be thanking our Community Volunteers. School lunch will be served at 11:15 and the children will be dismissed at noon.

Goodbyes: It is always hard to let my school kids go in June. It is particularly hard this year knowing this will be my last class. Thank you for sharing your children with me. It has been a pleasure to be their teacher. Many years ago I started sharing this poem with parents. It sums up the joys and heartaches of teaching and parenting!

I See Children As Kites

You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you're breathless. They crash, they hit rooftop...you patch and comfort, adjust and they'll fly. Finally they are airborne. They need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is a sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes more distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you together. And they will soar as they're meant to soar.....free and alone. And you will know you have done your job.

–Anonymous–

Thank you for all your help and support this year,

Julie

