

Greetings, Room 13 Families!

The countdown continues...9 days left in first grade! Here is a quick update for the week of 5/19-5/23.

Zoo: The trip was such a success! I think our only casualty may have been one lost sweater. The weather was nice, the animals were playful, and the students were excited yet well-behaved. The students impressed the tour guides with the amount of information they knew about habitats, plants, and animals. This experience helped make what learned in class more tangible. A huge thank you to the parents that helped the students explore the zoo safely, all while lugging around lunches and jackets. Their leadership helped each group have a more personalized visit. Fun, fun!

Animal/Habitat Report and Project: The students did an AMAZING job with their habitats and animal reports. Each one is so unique. We are having a great time sharing them this week. Thank you for helping to extend learning at home. Pictures are coming soon!

Spanish Forms: Sra. Hurley will start forming 2nd grade Spanish classes soon. Do you still have your registration form from last week? If your child is interested in participating, please send the form in TOMORROW!!!

Volunteer Luncheon: If you volunteered your time and talents to PCR this year and will be able to make the volunteer luncheon (Thursday, May 29, at 11:30 in the MPR), please RSVP to me via email. The teachers would love to have the chance to thank you and celebrate your kindness. An RSVP will help ensure that we get the right count for food. Thanks!

Homework: During these last few weeks of school, and into the summer, I suggest that you help your student pace themselves through the rest of the Problem Solving math book. Have them read 15-20 minutes each night. Encourage them to write often...lists, letters, journal entries, songs, poems, stories, etc. Also, look to Raz Kids, Starfall, MobyMax, and IXL for reading and math activities. These websites should be available over the summer break, too, so encourage your child to keep practicing! Log in information is available at the class website.

Monthly Oral Presentations: This past week, Sophia B, Sophia S, Mia B, Ainsley, Benny, Tait, and Max taught us about flowers, the arctic habitat, handball, the LA Zoo, chickens, frogs, and turtles. We're done for the year! Since October, students have grown much more comfortable and confident while speaking in front of their peers. Audience members have learned to listen critically and ask questions to improve understanding. These skills will serve them well in 2nd grade.

If you would like a year's worth of presentations, send in your thumb drive. I will happily give you a copy of your students' hard work.

New Pictures/Videos: Finally! Check out <https://mrsbeyersfirstgrade201314.shutterfly.com/> to see the latest round of pictures and videos.

Language arts: This week we read selections in which characters "keep trying." We reviewed pronouns, past tense, and dialogue. We reviewed words with -au and -augh (because, taught) and words with -oo and -u (balloon, rule)

Math: For double-digit addition, we started by adding multiples of 10 ($60+30=90$), counting on by multiples of 10 ($37+20=57$), and finally adding ones and tens ($61+7=68$). Students used tens sticks and ones cubes to model the place values.

Science/Social Studies: Our habitat of the week this week was the rainforest. Students read about the plants and animals at each layer: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy, and the emergent layer.

Specials: Mrs. Pakh read her last story of the year to the first graders: Strega Nona Takes a Vacation. Mrs. Bentz wrapped up the year in the computer lab by helping us explore Starfall. In the iPad lab, Mrs. Blaney helped us scan QR codes to find information about rainforest animals. We used Educreations to draw and write a fact about our chosen animal. Then we shared our fact in front of the green screen. The video will come soon. Next week we will have our last sessions with Mrs. Choi and Mr. Wulff.

Important dates:

- Monday, May 26: No School—Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 27: Site Council Meeting (3:15pm, Library)
- Wednesday, May 28: PTA Meeting (9:15am, MPR)
- Thursday, May 29: Volunteer Luncheon (11:30am, MPR), Dad's Committee Meeting (7:00pm, MPR)
- Friday, May 30: Collaboration Day (8:10am-12:45pm), Spirit Rally (9:35am, Lower Playground)
- Thursday, June 5: Last Day of School!!! (11:35am dismissal)

As always, contact me with any questions.

-Meredith Beyer

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