

Dear Room 13 Families,

Here's a quick update to keep you informed of the happenings in Room 13.

Language arts: We continued practicing many of the concepts from last week, including counting syllables, blending onset and rime, and segmenting. We read several more poems and visualized a mental image to match the words. We also looked for common characteristics of poetry: rhyming, repetition, rhythm, and spreading sentences over several lines. With the new early/late bird schedule, we were able to establish the routine for writing in our daily journals. I was also able to assess several students one-on-one, which will continue into next week.

Math: We wrapped up our first chapter of math. We compared numbers using our vocabulary words..."greater than" and "less than." We put three to four numbers in order from least to greatest. We read data from picture graphs and found which items were represented the most/least times.

Social Studies: This early in the school year, the main focus is still on reiterating rules and expectations. We say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing The Star Spangled Banner daily. The students are getting quite good at remembering the words. I will send a copy of the Palm Crest Pledge and lyrics to patriotic songs at Back To School Night so you can help them practice at home, too.

Science: We continued observation of plants. Next week, we will learn about what plants need to grow and about the different parts of plants.

Specials: We missed our library time due to the Labor Day holiday. If your child still has a library book, you may enjoy it over the weekend. Just make sure it's back by Monday morning. Many students have already put their book in our library box in the classroom. In art, the students used a textured stamp (cardboard) to create a nature drawing on their portfolio covers. In the computer lab, we got to explore color activities to reinforce what we've learned during color week. Students learned a new song in music class.

Other Notes:

You probably noticed that there is no homework in the golden folders this week. Formal homework will start after Back To School Night. Rather than send paperwork, I would like students to start collecting interesting leaves from outings or from around your home. Over the next few weeks, we will make leaf observations, leaf rubbings, and leaf collages.

Thank you to all of the families that prepared the colorful snacks this week. Tomorrow (Friday) will be our culminating event. We will have rainbow snacks and then use the adjectives from the Rainbow Name-bow assignment to create a wonderful craft.

All parents that volunteer must have a current TB test on file (updated every 4 years). There is a complimentary clinic taking place at Doctors of USC La Canada at 1751 Foothill Blvd, Suite 3. The first session is on September 9th with a September 12th reading. The second session is on September 10th with a September 13th reading. On all days, the hours are from 9am-12pm and 1-4pm.

Bathroom challenges...several students are needing to be excused during class time. I understand that nature calls and would never deny them access, but in order to avoid interrupting lessons, I am encouraging students to go before school or during recesses. If you could reinforce this by reminding your student and allowing them to "go" right before school, it will help keep our lesson time flowing smoothly.

Important dates:

Friday, September 6—Back To School BBQ 5-8pm

I'm so excited that my family is coming, too! I'd love to introduce them to you.

Thursday, September 12—Back To School Night

Friday, September 13—Collaboration Day