

September 19, 2016

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all of you who were able to come along on one or both of our Beachcomber's Days in Phy Ed last week. The kids really enjoyed this field trip to Lake Harriet.

Please look for your child's permission slip for the Gibbs Farm in Monday's folder. I would love to take everyone who wants to chaperone along, but the rooms are small in the farmhouse, and not there's just not very much room once 27 children are seated. There will be a few more field trips this fall, as we will be attending "Cinderella" at the Children's Theater on November 29<sup>th</sup>, and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in December. Please return the permission slips by Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Room 232's Classroom Volunteer Opportunities should be up and running on Tuesday, and I'll send you a link at that time. I look forward to seeing parents and grandparents in the classroom. Your children are wonderful, but it is a big help to have adults to help with skills and projects.

I have finished testing all of the children on their Fountas & Pinnell levels, and will be starting four reading groups this week. It will be a gradual process, as I will meet with two groups each day for this week, and add more each day as the children's stamina for working independently increases. These groups are fluid, and your child may be in the same one all year, or may switch around until I find that perfect fit.

We are beginning to work on Addition in Math, and our Social Studies Unit is on Citizenship. Science, which is "Rocks & Pebbles, Sand & Silt" will begin shortly.

Your children should have brought home their Dr. Seuss bookbags on Friday. I tried to check each of them, and hopefully they contained books your child can read independently, or with just a little help. The books can be exchanged daily, or two or three times each week. They will exchange their books first thing in the morning, and return the bookbags to their backpacks. It is certainly OK for them to read the same books multiple times, but book exchanges will make sure they are making progress. As their reading levels increase, their books should as well.



Fall MAP Testing, which is done in the computer lab, will occur on September 28, and October 4, 7 & 11, and will be taken in the morning. Although I don't administer the tests, I will be in the computer lab with them the entire time. I will send home more information on testing next week.

Picture Day is on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, and our class will have their pictures taken in the morning. It's always best to have the younger ones take pictures before lunch!

Finally, if you are planning on ordering books from Scholastic, please do so by Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. I will place the order in the evening, and they should arrive early next week.

Thanks, and have a great week!