

November 01, 2013

4th grade parents,

For a week that started with such great promise (the next phase of the Country Research Project, an exciting field trip to Knoxville, and numerous Halloween activities), it certainly ended "not with a bang, but a whimper"; isn't it amazing what havoc a microscopic but pesky stomach bug can wreak?! Hopefully 3 days of rest and a lot of antiseptic will put us all back at full steam Monday morning.

Next week is Spirit week - Monday is pajama day, Tuesday is "dress like an athlete" day, Wednesday is wacky dress day, Thursday is Ashley spirit day, and Friday is "dress-like-an-animal" day.

Friday there will be a monthly staff meeting at 3:30, so unfortunately there will be no 4th grade extended DEAR time.

Highlights of the past week for me include:

- the obvious pleasure (and educational value) that the students took from the Knoxville orchestra performance
- the excitement of the students exploring the "big city" of Knoxville on foot
- playing Monopoly with the 6 students who made it to class on Thursday - the game held their interest for almost 90 minutes and they never guessed how much mental math practice they were getting!

Assuming your children are healthy this weekend, please have them continue with their science research topics (links can be found at <http://mrmcilquham.weebly.com/environmental-research-topic-links.html>) The plan was for each student to spend two class periods this past week finding out what they could about these extra-curricular topics; they will share whatever they've managed to discover with the class on Monday.

We will also proceed with the "Little House on the Prairie" test Monday, so students should continue their review of the book and the story map over the weekend. The up-to-date story map is available on my web site.

Thanks to all the parents who helped out on the field trip, and to all those that pitched in for the Halloween party (some even though they and/or their kids were sick!)

Have a happy and health-restoring weekend, and tell the kids I'll see them all bright, early, and pajama-clad on Monday!

Mr. Mac