Dear Families, October 7, 2013

**FYI:** We have gained a third music class. If any parents have concerns regarding our class specials schedule please speak to me directly and I will try to assist you. I am happy to find the answers and do what I can to resolve problems.

**Handwriting:** Please have your child complete their homework legibly. Make sure they write neatly and take the time to form all letters correctly. When they practice writing their spelling words again make sure it is neat and that they are forming the letters correctly. I will begin to grade harder on handwriting. I have started to make notes on their work and tests where letters were not formed correctly. If you could also support these efforts I would greatly appreciate it.

**Wordly Wise**….. This week, the children are to complete assignments 8A-C in their books and the passage portion which is D for book 2 and E for book 3. I now am challenging the children since they are doing so well at restating the questions to now use the vocabulary words in your answer.

 *For Example….* Advice is the vocabulary word……… Example below

*Question: Name two helpful suggestions about doing magic tricks that you learned from the story? Two tips of* ***advice*** *for doing magic tricks is never miss a chance to make people laugh and keep talking through each step.*

**Math:** This week in class we will review and continue working on quarter skills. The kids are continuing to work on workstations which will review all of our skills for the quarter. We will continue to work on area and perimeter, arrays, regrouping and borrowing to the thousand and across zeros and finding missing digits to make an equation true. We will be working on expressions that go with and match a word problem and could help them solve word problems. We will continue to work on word problems and use our 4-Step Plan of understand, plan, solve and check (UPSC).

We are going to start a new program called Ten Marks. There will be **NO** math paper this week for the students to complete I will monitor the website on Friday and see if the kids went on and completed any math problems. They will work on this program this week in class and during computer lab time as well. I sent home the letter and log in information today with each child. Have fun and I think the kids will really enjoy this over paper pencil (though I may still at times send some papers home, but for the next couple weeks let’s just work on Ten Marks) Ten Marks is correlated to common core. I can go on-line to view their progress and successes as well as struggles. Have fun! I learned about this at my professional development and was excited to start this week. Let me know if you love it. This week the the kids are required to get on for 5 to 10 minutes (or more, if you love it) and complete as many assignments they can in that time limit. I will be able to log-in and see how long they worked and how many problems were completed.

**Reading:** Please have your child read nightly. For reading, I expect 20/20, either 20 pages or 20 minutes. Let them pick a book that they enjoy. If your child reads on RAZ kids for 20 minutes that is fine as well. I am sending home a reading log for “Book It”. Since your child is already reading nightly fill it in with 15 completed books by October 31st and your child will receive a coupon for a free kid’s pizza from Pizza Hut.

We will continue reading Shiloh. We did some writing activities about our Character Marty. We will finish reading our folktale called “The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin”, and a poem called “Crocodile”. We will start a short story called “How the Camel got His Hump” and a new poem called “Swing Song” by A.A. Milne. I will be focusing instruction on Main Idea and Supporting Details over the next couple weeks.

**Social Studies: Maps and timelines –** We are working on maps and mapping skills and will create a salt dough map of our bedrooms this week and next. They will draw them and then create it. We will continue working on timelines of China’s history as well as American history timelines. I hope the timelines that the children are doing at home coming along nicely and they are having fun learning about their heritage.

**Box Tops:** Please send in box tops. The class with the most box tops wins a party. Thank you to the many families that have sent some in.

**Timeline of important events in your family:** Information was sent home on October 3rd ,Thursday, for this at home activity. This will cover important events in your family’s history. We are learning about Ancient China, U.S. History and Arizona History through Timelines as well in class. Have fun creating a timeline. Timeline activity is due on October 15th.

 Let’s have another amazing week!!!

Thank you,

Mrs. Hoffman Diaz

My website if you have not visited it: http://mrshoffmandiaz.weebly.com/

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| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| 7HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 8HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 9HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 10HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 11Turn-InWordly WiseReading Web Have a great weekend! |
| 14 No school | 15HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20TIMELINE ACTIVITY DUECONFERENCES BEGIN | 16HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 17½ Day 12:05 dismissalHomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 18½ day 12:05 dismissalTurn-InWordly WiseReading Web  |

**Important Dates:**

Field Trip on December 17th at 10:00a.m. a holiday play for Young Audiences of *The Elves and the Shoemaker.* (I know many of you may want to attend we can only have 10 parents join us and no siblings may attend.) More information will come home soon. Please don’t contact me about joining I will send the information home when I have it. If more than 10 parents volunteer I will put names in a hat and draw 10 out.

**Looking Ahead**

October 14th - Fall Break - NO SCHOOL
October 15th - 18th - Parent Teacher Conferences
October 16th - Kindergarten Early Release
October 17-18 -Early Release at 12:05
December 17th at 10:00 Field trip - More information to follow...