Dear Families, September 23, 2013

**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. The other teachers in the upper grades are complaining about the handwriting and I will support those efforts to make sure our class leaves with good handwriting skills. I have started to make notes on their work where letters were not formed correctly if you could also support these efforts I would greatly appreciate it.

**FYI: Homework will receive quarter total points at the end of the quarter grading period. If homework is turned in late it will be graded down effecting the overall quarter grade in reading, math and English language arts.**

**Wordly Wise**….. This week, the children are to complete assignments 6A-C in their books and the passage portion which is D for book 2 and E for book 3. Reminder: On the passage page, PLEASE have your child answer in complete sentences (if they cannot write it all on the lines provided they may use a separate sheet of paper and neat handwriting is expected.) Please have them highlight in the passage where the answers were found as well. This helps them learn to use the passage to prove their answer is correct and not just use memory recall where mistakes can be made.

 *For Example….* *How can a bat be compared to an acrobat*? An acrobat and bat can be compared because they both fly through the air and are lightweight **OR** Bats are lightweight and fly through the air and that is how they are similar to an acrobat.

**Math:** This week we will continue work on area and perimeter, arrays, repeated addition, repeated subtraction and finding missing digits to make an equation true. We will continue to work on word problems and use our 4-Step Plan of understand, plan, solve and check (UPSC).

**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. I sent home your child’s RAZ account papers on Friday. If your child reads on RAZ kids for 20 minutes that is fine as well. The children will finish presenting their fairy tales they researched from various countries. We studied the Chinese fairy tale Yeh-Shen and they completed a triple Venn diagram comparing Yeh-Shen, American Cinderella and the fairy tale they studied. They made literature webs and Charts with illustrations for the beginning, middle and end of their fairy tale. They all did a great job.

**Day of Play**: Thank you to many families for coming out and supporting the Day of Play. It was great to see and visit with many of you there. Thanks for supporting our school functions.

**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.

**Math Websites:** If you want some additional support or fun games here are some great sites I recommend.

<http://www.math-play.com/Adding-Money/adding-money.html>
<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/mathgames/fractions/Balloons_fractions1.htm>
<http://mrnussbaum.com/bmf/>
<http://mrnussbaum.com/cashout/>
<http://www.funbrain.com/cashreg/index.html>
<http://mrnussbaum.com/draggablemain/index2/>
<http://mrnussbaum.com/geniusboxing1>
<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/mentalmaths/guessthenumber.html>
<http://www.hoodamath.com/>

**Timeline of important events in your family:** Information will be sent home on Friday for this at home activity. Please get information from your child on Friday and it is due October 3rd. This will cover important events in your family’s history. Not current events this could go back 30 to 40+ or more years. We are learning about Ancient China, U.S. History and Arizona History through Timelines as well in class.

 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** |
| 23HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 24HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 25HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 26HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 27 Turn-InWordly WiseMathReading Web \*Timeline of important events in your family. Due Oct. 3rd. Paper will come today as well.Have a great weekend! |
| 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 ½ day I have a substitute this day. Remind your child to follow the rules for the substitute, please. |

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**Important Dates:**

Sept. 24th - Firefighter guest speaker about matches and fire safety.

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**

09/24 7:00 p.m.-Governing Board Meeting

10/04 ½ day - Early release at 12:05 p.m. (I will have a sub that day for district trainings.)

10/05 Saturday 11:00 a.m.-Volunteer Training