Dear Families, September 30, 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. 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 7A-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, 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. 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.

We will begin reading our class novel, Shiloh. We began our pre-reading activities last week and will start reading the book this week. The kids are very excited. We did some research on hound dogs last week and learned about West Virginia and identified West Virginia on a map of the United States. We read a little about ASPCA and the author Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. We are also reading a folktale called “The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin”, and a poem called “Crocodile”. The students are slowly working on their group novels as well.

**Social Studies: Maps and timelines –** We are working on maps and mapping skills. The children have labeled and identified the continents and oceans. Then we zoomed in and took a closer look at Asia labeling the important countries in the continent of Asia. Then we took an even closer look of China and labeled the major cities and landmarks and water sources found in China. We will start working on timelines of China’s history as well as American history timelines.

**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 this Thursday for this at home activity. Please get information from your child on Thursday, October 3rd. 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** |
| 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 Mapping ActivityDue October 4th Have a great weekend! |
| 30HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 1HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 2HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 3 \*Start Timeline of important events in your family. Due Oct. 15th. Information will come home, TODAY. HomeworkSpelling Wordly WiseMath/WebReading 20/20 | 4 ½ day I have a substitute this day. Remind your child to follow the rules for the substitute, please.Mapping Activity DueTurn-InWordly WiseMathReading Web Have a great weekend! |

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**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 4th - 1/2 Day early release at 12:05 (I will have a sub that day for district trainings, remind your child to be helpful and respectful.)

October 5th - Saturday 11:00 a.m.-Volunteer Training
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...