

November 2, 2017

Room 204 News

Dear Room 204 families:

Here are some updates and news from our classroom. Some of this information is repeated because it is useful to hear again.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are starting tomorrow, Friday, 11/3/17. There is no school for students tomorrow. Next week, there are conferences and early release days Monday, 11/6 through Thursday, 11/9. Please note: the early dismissal time that I sent home previously was incorrect. We will have early dismissal at 2:00, not 2:10, as I previously stated. There is no school next Friday, 11/10, in observance of Veterans' Day.

I will send a confirmation email or note the day before your scheduled conference. You can sign up for conferences or change your appointment time here: <http://signup.com/go/ZLRQREQ>.

If you are not able to sign up online, please send me an email or note and I will sign you up. Thank you!

Homework

This information went home by email yesterday: as we've been doing all year, kids are receiving a few pages of math homework each week, depending on the lesson and whether we have spent enough time on it in class so that kids are ready to try it independently for homework. The current module is about multiplying numbers with 2 or more digits and solving word problems. Just like I did for Module 1, I sent a link (see yesterday's email) for a youtube channel that I made that includes videos by Duane Habecker, who is a math teacher and has some excellent explanations to help you support your student in math.

Here is the [link](#):

(https://youtu.be/6x0azbn5r90?list=PLRMDmHjg-4gE13sWXQMqsLZj_Vpe4Rso4).

We are currently in Lesson 10, about the move on to Lesson 11. You can also look up these videos for any lesson or module by going to youtube and searching "Duane Habecker grade 5 module x". If your student is really struggling with the math homework, particularly if it takes more than 45

minutes daily, please let me know, as this shows that I need to spend more time supporting your student in class. Please also encourage your student to come to me for help so that I know who needs extra support. Your student is always welcome to bring unfinished math homework to me for help.

At this point in the year, I'm finding that many kids still need a lot of practice on memorizing multiplication facts, and I will be sharing this information with you specifically about your student during conferences. A resource that you can use at home for multiplication facts practice is coolmathgames.com. The expectation is that kids have all of the facts from 0-12 memorized by the end of fifth grade. I will also start sending home multiplication facts practice at your student's level as part of the homework. Like the spelling homework, multiplication facts homework will be assigned weekly on Thursdays, due the following Wednesday. Also like the spelling, kids will have a multiplication facts test each Wednesday so that I can monitor their progress. Although we do math facts practice in class as part of the fifth grade curriculum, some kids just need extra practice to really get them memorized. If your student already knows their facts, they will not receive multiplication facts practice homework.

Upcoming

Friday, 11/3 - No school. Parent-teacher conferences.

Friday, 11/10 - No school. Veterans' Day.

Wednesday, 11/22 - Friday, 11/24 No school. Thanksgiving.

Field Trips

*Thursday, 1/11/18 Berkeley High Dance Performance **Chaperones needed!***

*Tuesday, 3/27/18 - Wednesday, 3/28/18 Tall Ship Overnight **Thank you to everyone who volunteered to chaperone. I now have six chaperones scheduled and the trip only allows 7 adults including myself, so I can't sign up anymore chaperones. If you signed up to chaperone and you are no longer available, please let me know, as there are other parents who would like to chaperone if spots open up. This trip is usually on the Balclutha, but may be on the Eureka this year, due to ship maintenance. More details to come.***

*Friday, 4/20/18 Oakland Museum Hiphop Tour **Chaperones needed! Meet at BART at 9 a.m. More details to come.***

*Still to be scheduled: **Middle School visits. Lawrence Berkely Labs trip. In-school programs: Zoo Mobile (end of May). American Revolution (beginning of June).***

