August 27, 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy Monday!

I hope you all enjoyed your weekend. Mine was very relaxing and seemed to go so quickly!

In reading this week, we will be focusing on ways in which we achieve common ground. Students will be reading short stories centered on this theme. Students were also given 20 spelling words that are incorporated throughout the selected reading. The spelling test will be given on Friday.

In writing, we will begin our Writer’s Workshop. In Writer’s Workshop we will be working on prewriting strategies and using a story board to help organize our ideas. We will be focusing on writing our own personal memoire about a special time in our lives. Later this week, I will be asking students to bring in some sort of souvenir from this particular time. This may be a photo album, trinket, postcard, etc. I will be bringing in my high school yearbook!

In Math this week, we will build on our multiplication and division instruction by practicing problem-solving with word problems. Students will be identifying key words in word problems that signal specific operations. Of course, we will continue to work some with basic math facts here at school, but spending more time at home on these could greatly benefit every student. If you need help locating flashcards or online games, please let me know. A wonderful website for additional math practice is [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) . You can access it fully with a paid subscription, but students are also allowed up to 20 problems a day for free. It is broken up by grade level and skill and provides practice directly aligned with what we are learning in class. Additionally, a great website for long division practice is <http://www.kidsnumbers.com/long-division.php>. We will be using this website some in class and it is perfect as it carefully prompts students through the steps of the traditional method.

Students are very excited to start science! Students will be studying environments with Mrs. Kester for the next two weeks. We will begin rotations on Wednesday.

Finally, Tuesday, August 28th is our first Early Release day. I will be working with other classroom teachers to review our goals and learning targets for the remainder of the year.

Have a wonderful day,

Kelli Hammond