

April 1, 2010

Dear Family,

My weekly letter is usually one of events and activities for my class. However, I will start this letter with an important request of each family. I am asking that each of you talk to your child about their behaviors in our class. After a second very poor report from a sub this week, along with other people commenting about our class, I am very concerned about the behaviors still occurring, and it is the beginning of the last quarter of 3rd grade. On Monday, the sub left me an extensive note, grouping the children in 3 groups by behaviors. On Tuesday, based on that information, only 6 students went to recess. The rest sat in our room for all of recess. On Wednesday, 8 more students went to recess, leaving 4 students that have not gone to recess for the week. Please talk to your child about what group they were in.

On Wednesday, we had a guest that shares a county program. She could barely get through her lesson, as many again would not stop talking as she was trying to present her program. This is a serious issue and one I hope you will address with your child. It is very draining on those doing their job and on me to have a class behave like this on a daily basis. Thank you for any support to solve this problem.

We did finish our work on North America and your child should have brought home several of their projects. I hope your child can tell you about the North Star quilts and their connection to the Underground Railroad. After vacation, we will start our last new continent. We will spend April and part of May in South America. A big part of our focus will be the rainforest. Our science unit will be living things, so this will tie into our social studies work.

When we return from vacation, we will start preparing for the state ELA tests that will be given in April. You will see your child bring home practice tests to do on their own. Please do not help in any way with this homework, so your child can have a true idea of how to do the ELA tests. We will go over the work and talk about the answers and reasons for the answers. Since this is a reading test, please do not read any of the stories to your child.

I hope you all have a great vacation and a wonderful Easter. See you in a week.