

January 11, 2019

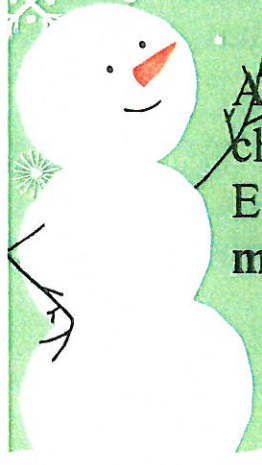
Dear Parents,

Welcome Back! We hope you had a very nice holiday and we want to wish all of you a very nice 2019! We are happy to be back, and I am excited about the remainder of this school year. We would like to welcome Adair Liebold and Avika Gupta and their families to our class!

We will be starting off the Second Semester with the following **Unit Studies: Rocks and Minerals and the Continent study of South America and Rain Forests.** We will be answering questions such as: What is a tropical rain forest? Where are tropical rain forests located? Why are tropical rain forests important to our earth? and What is happening to our rain forests?

Lessons will include reading *The Great Kapok Tree*, *Welcome to the Green House* and *The Magic School Bus Visits the Rain Forest*. We will be introducing the rain forests of the world; developing an appreciation and respect of other cultures and of the rain forest; discovering the four layers of the rain forest and the climate and animals at each level; as well as learning how we can protect the rain forest and its inhabitants.

At this time of the year, I like to introduce/expose the children to the concept of **Beginning Research Skills**. Each year, the students work on and present to the class a **mini research project**. This year's research will focus



on animals that live in South America. Your child will randomly choose an animal to do their research on (a note will be sent home Monday, January 14th with the name of the animal). We have discussed in class where and how we can find information. I have instructed the children to not only use the Internet – but to utilize other resources, such as visiting the library and the Natural History Museum. It is up to your child as to how they would like to “present” their findings to the class. Some suggestions are: drawings, creating a diorama, finding pictures and gluing them on a poster board, making a book, making “their” animal out of clay, etc. We will have the children present their research to the class starting on Monday, February 4th. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask either Mr. Yo’ or myself.

Our final Parent Night of this school year will be on Thursday, February 7th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. As in the past, there will be two, 45-minute sessions: 4:30-5:15 p.m. and 5:15-6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted on our classroom door. The children are very excited and, as always, are anxious to show you their work! Their research projects will also be on display that evening in the Big Room. Please remember, since this is a very special time for you and your child, please leave your child’s siblings in the After School Program (children currently enrolled at our school) or at home so that you can give your child your undivided attention.

On Wednesday, January 30th, we will be celebrating the 100th day of school! The children will be working with the

number 100 all day. We will start this fun day with our traditional **100th day breakfast** – they will, of course, be using their Practical Life skills! **A sign-up sheet will be posted on our classroom door for items those of you might like to contribute for this special day.** I wanted to let you know that our menu will consist of apple juice, fruit, scrambled eggs (**not** made with milk), waffles with syrup and butter, sausage and mini bagels with butter and grape jelly (and other substitutions/suggestions you might like to contribute). **If there are any items that you would like your child not to eat, please let us know.**

As part of our celebration, we would like each child to bring in a **collection of 100 items.** With your child, think about objects they could easily collect in a quantity of 100. It may be a collection they already have or a new one. Please have your child bring the objects **in a labeled plastic bag (with their name) or they may want to design some creative way to display their collection (i.e., gluing the objects onto a poster board or creating a picture to spell out the number 100!).** **Please have your child bring their collection on or before Wednesday, January 30th.** We are looking forward to seeing everyone's collection!

Here are some important dates and events to mark on your calendar:

Friday, January 18th – No School – Student Holiday/Teacher Workday – School Open House – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, January 21st – No School – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Observed

Wednesday, January 30th – 100th Day of School Breakfast/Celebration

Monday, February 4th – Presentation of Research Projects Begin

Thursday, February 7th, Parent Night – 4:30-6:00 p.m.

We are excited about the second half of the school year! If you ever have any questions, please feel free to leave a note in the basket on top of the cubbies outside of our classroom, a voice message on my telephone, or you can email me at efalls@millhopper.com . I will get in touch with you as soon as I can.

We hope you have a very nice weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Falls and Mr. Yo' Tucker

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