

October 22, 2011

Hello Parents!

There are a lot of things going on this week—so please bear with me.

This week, on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be going on our field trip downtown to visit the Federal Court, Metro. Court and the District Attorney's Office. Students must bring a sack lunch on this day as we will not return to school in time for our lunch period. I have received a request from ten parents to accompany us on this trip. I cannot take any more parents than this, given limitations given by the court on our numbers. If you have had a change of plans or heart about going, it is not a problem, since we have so many volunteers, however, please let me know that you will not in fact be going. Students should dress appropriately for attending court. Please remember that your student will attend a criminal court docket in both courthouses. I asked that you email me if you would prefer that your student not attend those proceedings.

Also this week, we will present our first mock trial on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. We will host two third grade classes who will act as the jury. Parents are permitted to come. Our

second trial will be on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:50 PM. Both trials will take place in our classroom. You may ask your student in which trial they have a role. You may help your student prepare for their role as a witness, by asking questions related to their testimony in the trial. Everyone must know their part, without hesitation by this week.

We will test over Unit 3 in *Everyday Moth* on Monday. We have reviewed the material in class this last week. I sent home the "Letter Home" about the next unit on Friday.

Yesterday the class and I learned about the celebration in Mexico called Dia De Los Muertos, and the students each made a sugar skull. Thank-you to all of you who sent in the sacks of sugar! Mrs. Rasheed, Mrs. Rozenblum and Mrs. Rohrbough came and helped with the process. We will decorate the skulls on Tuesday. If you happen to have any small bottles of the puff paint for fabric around the house that you are not using, we would appreciate having those to use for decorations. Neon or bright colors are especially needed. Thanks!

My students will be allowed to wear costumes to school on Monday, October 31. But, the costume cannot include violence, gore (blood), or any frightening imagery. No masks allowed and

no weapons of any type are permitted. Our class party is that afternoon from 12:45 to the end of the day.

This week, the students will begin writing “Reading Response Journal” entries. The entry is in the form of a letter, and it contains 1/3 of a written page of summary regarding their reading and 2/3 of a page in which they are to write about their thinking about their reading. I have modeled this process for the students. Beginning Monday, they will receive many handouts with reminders, and suggestions for their letter writing. The purpose of this is to encourage and illicit deeper comprehension and thinking about their reading. It also is good writing practice. I suggest that the letters be kept in their binder. They must keep each letter written for the rest of the year. Students will be given pens of different colors to use with their writing and it is important that they keep up with them. The color coding with the pens is useful to remind them of the required elements. Ultimately, each student will have an assigned day to turn in a letter to me. Students will turn in one letter per week.

I think that’s it—whew!

Thanks so much for all of your support— Jalyynn

