**SHARING**

For sharing this week children should bring or tell us about a favorite book. It is great if they have their favorite page marked. They can show us a favorite picture or read us a bit from a special page.

Sharing next week will focus on currency. Children can bring currency from another country.

**SPELLING & MATH**

 Due to PEAKS testing, students will not have math or spelling homework this week. Instead, it would be great if children could spend time each evening playing outside and getting plenty of physical activity.

**SWIMMING**

 We’ll be swimming this week. Please be sure your child has swimwear and a towel at school on Wednesday.

**PEAKS TESTING**

 In our classroom students in grades three through five will begin the state-mandated PEAKS testing this week. This assessment is written specifically for Alaska and matches the standards Allison and I use each day to teach your child. These tests are untimed and are given on the computer. We practiced how to use the technology involved in the tests, and students seemed quite comfortable with it.

 Third through fifth graders will begin testing on Tuesday morning. They’ll all test again on Wednesday morning. On Thursday morning only fourth and fifth graders will test. Those three days students will be taking the Language Arts test which includes reading and writing skills. On Friday morning fourth graders will be taking the science test.

 It is very helpful if you send your child to school well-rested with a healthy breakfast those days.

 We’ll be testing in Allison’s classroom next to our regular classroom. While we are testing, the younger students will be having a regular morning of reading and math in our classroom. By afternoon we’ll resume our regular schedule of instruction.

**SCIENCE**

 In science the students in kindergarten, first, and second grade will be learning about the desert habitat.

 Third graders will be learning about decomposers in an ecosystem.

 Fourth and fifth graders continue to study consumers in an ecosystem.

 All students will be doing an investigation involving owl pellets.

 In addition, students are providing ongoing care to their various plants including watering, pruning, and transplanting.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

 Younger students will be learning mapping skills in social studies this week.

 Third graders will be learning about the Great Depression.

 Fourth and fifth graders will be learning about the challenges faced by African Americans.