**SHARING**

Sharing this week is Children’s Choice.

For sharing next week children should bring in or tell us about something unusual they found at the beach.

**NO SCHOOL**

 There isn’t school this Friday, April 19th. This is a vacation day. I hope you and your family have a relaxing three-day weekend.

**SWIMMING**

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

**HOMEWORK**

 Because of the short week, there isn’t math or spelling homework this week.

**SPIRIT WEEK**

 This is Spirit Week at Susan B. English School. Participation is, as always, optional. Here’s the schedule of “events”:

Today: Pajamas Day

Tuesday: Cartoon Character Day

Wednesday: Career Day

Thursday: School Spirit Day

**FIELD TRIP**

 We are planning to take a field trip on Monday, April 22nd. We are still ironing out a few details, but the general plan is to leave school around 9:30 to walk to Outside Beach via the road, to explore tide pools during the low tide, to eat lunch there, and then to walk back to school. Students will need to bring a sack lunch to school that day. They’ll also need to come to school prepared to be outside for several hours. I’m hoping to get permission slips sent home tomorrow.

**SCIENCE**

 We began our study of life science early in the year by talking about being zoologists and botanists. We have spent quite a bit of hands-on time with plants. This week we’ll be transplanting again and moving some plants from the pool mezzanine to the classroom.

 We will continue to take care of our plants, but we are also shifting our focus to animals. All students have learned about a variety of habitats and ecosystems as well as what all animals need to survive.

Our next project will put that basic learning to use. The overall goal of the project is to design a zoo. Students will be researching zoo animals of their choice to learn everything they need to be successful zookeepers for those animals. We are starting with mammals and will move on to reptiles and amphibians, if time allows.

We have had discussions about whether or not zoos are a good thing, and students have many opinions on the topic. We’ve also discussed the purpose of zoos. With these things in mind, students will be researching the best zoos in the world. We’ll be looking at maps of those zoos to get ideas how to organize our zoo as well as amenities needed at a zoo.

 This project will address standards in language arts, math, science, social studies, and even art. The research that students will be doing will meet the district’s fourth quarter requirement that all students learn to do research. Students will also be using math skills as they work to make a scale model of their animals and of the zoo enclosures for their animals and amenities for visitors. There will be many opportunities for collaborative work along with problem solving and cooperation throughout the project.

**VISITORS**

 Next year’s kindergarteners will be visiting us for a few hours on Thursday morning. This will give both groups a chance to meet each other as students. We’ll be doing some math and some engineering activities while they are in the classroom.