**SHARING**

This week children can bring or tell us about a favorite toy.

Sharing next week will be all about moms. Children can bring a photo or tell a story about Mom.

**EARLY RELEASE**

On Wednesday, May 1st, students will be excused from school at 1:40 PM. Staff will use the rest of the day for collaboration.

**SWIMMING**

We won’t be swimming this week.

**SPELLING**

Spelling words are attached for students in grades one through five. The homework is explained below.

**Monday**: Cut, sort, explain

**Tuesday**: Sort and write

**Wednesday**: Adult reads, child writes in correct category, fix as needed

**Thursday**: Sort, glue, add two

We’ll test on the words on Friday.

**FIELD TRIPS**

A huge thanks to all of you. The field trip permission forms for the Friday trip were returned the very next day! Amazing!

I’d also like to thank all of our volunteers who helped make the two trips a success. It is your willingness to help out that allows us to have these experiences.

Finally a huge pat on the back to the students. They were troopers. There was no complaining about our long trek on Friday. They also were able to prove they had learned quite a bit about how Seldovia gets its drinking water and also about watersheds.

**GEOGRAPHY**

It’s time for students to learn their states and capitals! This information helps students with their daily geography. It also gives them a great start in being able to form a mental image of our country when they hear current events. The requirements vary by grade level and are explained below. Students will be tested on this information on Wednesday, May 15th.

Kindergarteners need to learn the names and location of five states. First graders need to learn fifteen states. Second graders will be expected to know 25 states. Third graders should know 35 states. Fourth graders should know all fifty states. Fifth graders will need to locate and label all fifty states and also be able to name the capital of each state.

Kindergarteners through third graders can choose which states to learn. Younger students may be more successful learning states that have personal meaning to them. For example, maybe choose a state they have visited or one in which grandparents live.

I’m not going to expect students to spell the names perfectly. They need to be spelled so that I know what they had in mind when they were writing. I would like proper nouns capitalized though.

I’m sending home a blank map that may help in the studying process. I’ve also listed four links below. The first two work quite well for fun practice in learning the states. The third and fourth links will help the fifth graders learn the capitals. [www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/usaquiz.html](http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/usaquiz.html)

<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3003>

<http://lizardpoint.com/geography/usa-caps-quiz.php>

<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3063>