**SHARING**

 For sharing this week, children should bring and show us an object that begins with the same letter or sound as his/her first name.

 Next week we’ll do the same thing with last names.

**THANK YOU**

I can’t say thank you often enough! Students are doing an amazing job with their home/school folders this year. It is a rare day when someone doesn’t have one. Thanks!

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

Next Wednesday, September 18th students will be excused from school at 1:40. Please be sure your child knows the plan for that day. Staff will collaborate on common issues for the rest of the day.

**SPELLING**

 Based on pretests administered a couple of weeks ago, students in grades one through five have been placed in groups for spelling instruction this year. The program that we use is based on the developmental stages children experience as they move toward conventional spelling.

This week we’ll go through our school routine. Beginning next week, first through fifth graders will have spelling homework each night of the week.

**ASSESSMENT**

 We completed almost all of our required assessments last week. We have a few tests to complete this morning. Students worked hard.

**ALICE TRAINING**

 This week we will be reviewing our ALICE training. For those of you new to our school district, ALICE refers to safety protocols used for situations involving a dangerous intruder in the school. While the protocol is the same for all ages, the training we use is designed specifically for elementary students.

We’ll begin by reading a book that explains what each letter of the acronym stands for. The students will learn that the A stands for “alert”. We recognize there’s a “dangerous someone” in the building. The L refers to “lockdown”. We lock the doors and stay out of line of sight. I is for “inform”. We let others know what we hear and see. The C is for “counter”. If we are seen, we ruin the dangerous someone’s day. E is for “evacuate”. We leave the building and run to our meeting spot. These actions do not necessarily happen in this order. We practice deciding which makes the most sense in different situations. (Students do not need to memorize what the letters stand for.)

 We continue to equate this learning to fire and earthquake drills. It is something we learn about and practice to stay safe in an emergency. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.