**SHARING**

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

Next week children can share a favorite book.

**NO SCHOOL**

Hopefully all parents have been notified by the district that there will not be school beginning tomorrow, September 17th. The school year will resume once the unions and district are able to negotiate a tentative agreement. You will be notified when that happens. I sincerely hope it happens very quickly!

In the meantime, being ever optimistic, I have planned the week assuming that we’ll be back in school by Wednesday. If we are not, please know that I will be making adjustments to expectations.

**EARLY DISMISSAL**

Assuming we are at school, this Wednesday, September 18th students will be excused from school at 1:40. Staff will collaborate on common issues for the rest of the day.

**SPELLING**

All students, except kindergarteners, have a page of spelling words attached. We spent the last two weeks practicing the homework described below.

The homework will be just like last year, but I’ll do a very thorough description in case you forgot or are new to our classroom.

**Monday**: Cut the words apart and sort them according to the headers. Your child should read the words to you and explain the sort. There is nothing to turn in. Keep the words at home. (We’ve sorted them in school so children should be familiar with the sort.)

**Tuesday**: Your child should sort the words again, and then write the words in their sorted categories. This paper should be turned in on Wednesday. Keep the words.

**Wednesday**: You read the words to your child, and he or she writes them in the correct category. Fix any misspelled words or words that were written in the wrong categories. Turn in the paper on Thursday. Keep the words at home.

**Thursday**: Your child sorts the words and glues them on paper and then adds two words to each category. This gets turned in on Friday.

There is one spelling group that is working on word families. That group doesn’t have headers to sort words into. They should match the words with the pictures to ensure they are sounding out the words, and then write the words for practice. On Thursday evening, they should glue the word/picture pairs on paper and turn that in.

We did a test on the words that students practiced in class last week. It conclusively proved that students need more practice than just what we do in school. Your help in reminding your student to practice nightly is what will help your child learn these words and be successful on the Friday test.

**SWIM CLASS**

Lisa Stanish has received the go-ahead from the city to begin in-school swim classes. Our class will go to the pool on Wednesday afternoons beginning on the 25th. While the advanced swimmers are in the water, the beginners will do some academic work with me on the pool deck. After 30 minutes the beginners will have their time in the pool. The advanced swimmers will shower and change and work on academics on the deck of the pool.

Please send your child to school on Wednesdays with swimwear and a towel. It is great if you can send some type of waterproof bag since Wednesday is also our library day, and we don’t want wet library books.

**PARENT VOLUNTEER**

It would be great if we could have a male chaperone accompany us to the pool on Wednesdays. An adult in the boys’ locker room would make things run much smoother. Please let me know if you are able and willing to help us. Thanks!