**SHARING**

 For sharing this week children should bring something that begins with the same sound as their first name.

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

**OPEN HOUSE**

 Thanks to all parents and grandparents who attended our Open House last week. It was great to see students showing off their classroom. Your attendance and support show children that you value education and that it is important that they do their best!

**ASSESSMENT**

We completed all district-required assessments last week. I’ll discuss the results with you at conferences at the end of the quarter. Students won’t have to take these tests again until January.

**SPELLING**

 All students, except kindergarteners, have a page of spelling words attached. Students have been placed in groups based on the results of pretests given during the first week. We spent last week practicing the homework.

 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.

**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 at home.

**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.

**MIND A-MAZES**

It’s time for Mind-A-Mazes! This is a district-wide competition for students in grades four through twelve. It is intended to foster collaboration and problem solving. The fourth through sixth graders are bringing home a letter explaining this to you. Several students have shown an interest and need to get their device built. Once they have accomplished that, we can practice and fine tune here at school.

If you are willing to host the group for building purposes, let me know and I’ll get the detailed information packet to you.