**SHARING**

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

 Next week sharing will focus on the short sound of /a/. This is the vowel sound heard in “map”. The sound doesn’t have to be at the beginning of the word.

**GEOGRAPHY**

 Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade have a study guide attached. The test will be on October 5th. The information should be a review for most of these students.

**SPELLING**

 All students, except kindergarteners, have a page of spelling words attached. The homework expectations are explained below.

**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.

Most students did quite well on last week’s test. Thanks for your assistance.

**MIND A-MAZES**

Hopefully students have a good start on their devices. I’m looking forward to being able to practice and fine tune at school.

**PICTURE DAY**

 School pictures will be taken Friday (9/28/18) morning. Packets with information are being sent home today. If you plan on purchasing photos, please be sure you do so before Friday morning.

 Family photos will be taken Thursday evening.

**ALICE TRAINING**

 Last week we reviewed 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 used is designed specifically for elementary students. We began by reading a book that explains what each letter of the acronym stands for. The students learned 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. (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. We held an ALICE drill on Friday. Students did a great job!