**SHARING**

 Sharing will be Children’s Choice this week.

**NO SCHOOL**

 There won’t be school for students this Friday, October 19th. It is the end of the first quarter. Staff will spend half the day on inservice topics. The other half of the day will be used to prepare report cards. Enjoy a long weekend with your family!

**SPELLING**

Due to the short week, students will not have spelling homework this week.

**SWIMMING**

 We’ll swim on Wednesday of this week. Please help your child remember to bring swimwear and a towel. Our class (with your support!) has done a great job remembering so far.

**ASSESSMENT**

 Students will be showing off the skills they gained in narrative writing this week. The district requires each student to independently produce a piece of writing in response to a pre-determined prompt. The prompt will be explained to students on Monday. On Tuesday students will be given 30-40 minutes to work on their writing. Students in kindergarten through third grade are expected to be finished at the end of that time. On Wednesday fourth and fifth graders get an additional 20 minutes to complete their writing.

**SCIENCE**

The younger students will be learning about the similarities between parents and offspring in plant and animal species.

The older students will explore how the environment can affect genetic traits.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

 The older students have learned about the causes of the Civil War and seem to have a good handle on those concepts. This week they’ll begin learning about the war itself.

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

 Third through fifth graders will be doing a unit on Greek mythology beginning this week. They’ll use these traditional stories as they explore how plot unfolds in a story. We’ll also use these ancient stories to continue learning about theme. Yet another reason to study them is to give students the background they need to understand the allusions they’ll hear the rest of their lives. Examples of this include references to a “Herculean task” or Atlas and having the “weight of the world on one’s shoulders”.

**MATH**

 The kindergarteners are learning to compare objects according to measurable traits like longer or shorter, heavier or lighter, and taller or shorter.

 Students doing first grade math will be completing a chapter that focused on concepts related to subtraction.

 Students doing second grade math are completing a chapter that introduced regrouping (carrying) with addition.

 Third graders will begin a chapter that formally introduces them to division.

 Students doing fourth grade math will be learning to multiply two, three, or four digit numbers by a single digit.

 Students doing fifth grade math continue to practice their long division skills.

 Students doing sixth grade math begin an intensive study of decimals.