**SHARING**

This week sharing will focus on patterns. Children should bring something with a pattern.

Next week children should share a favorite book.

**EARLY RELEASE**

All students in the district will be excused from classes 90 minutes earlier than normal on this Wednesday, September 13th. For students at Susan B. English School this means they will be dismissed at 1:40. Staff will use that time for collaboration and professional learning.

**PICTURE DAY**

School pictures will be taken next Monday, September 18th. Look for more information to be sent home this week.

**OPEN HOUSE**

The staff at Susan B. English School will host an Open House tomorrow evening (9/12/17). The evening will begin at 5:30 with a taco buffet. When the meal is finished your child will give you a tour of our classroom. I’ll also be available in case you have any questions about our schedule or classroom. We’re expecting to wrap up the evening about 7:00. I’m looking forward to seeing you.

**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.

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.

**BAKING**

The class baked banana bread this afternoon. Baking provides students with authentic reasons to read and follow directions. It also gives them great practice in cooperating and collaborating as their trio works together to complete the recipe. It also is wonderful practice with fractions and other math concepts. Last, (but not least in their minds), it provides us with a tasty (usually) snack.

**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 catapult built. Once they have accomplished that, we can practice and fine tune here at school.

**COLLEGE STUDENT**

Allison Miller, Bo’s mom, is working on earning an elementary teaching certificate. Part of that journey involves spending time in elementary classrooms. We are fortunate that she will be in our classroom about six hours each week during this first semester of the school year. I’ve attached a letter from her with further information along with a permission slip. Please sign and return the permission slip as soon as possible. Thanks!

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Students are learning about landforms in social studies. They’ll be reinforcing this knowledge by mapping their own (invented) country using salt dough. They’ll have to label the different landforms found in their country. Once dry, they’ll paint.