**SHARING**

 Sharing this week is Children’s Choice. There isn’t an assigned topic.

 For the week after break, students should bring something related to spring.

**END OF QUARTER**

 It’s hard to believe, but the third quarter of the school year ends this Thursday, March 8th. There are a few students who will need to work hard this week to get everything turned in before then. I’ll contact you early in the week if I need your assistance.

**NO SCHOOL**

 Students will not have school this Friday, March 9th. Teachers will use half of that day for training. The other half of the day will be used to begin work on third quarter progress reports.

**SPRING BREAK**

 There won’t be school next week either. This is spring break at Susan B. English School (and most other schools in our district). School will resume on Monday, March 19th at 8:30 AM. I hope you have a great week!

**SPELLING & MATH HOMEWORK**

Students will not have spelling or math homework this week.

**SWIMMING**

The class will be swimming on Wednesday of this week. Please be sure to send your child to school with a towel and swimwear that day. Thanks!

**SCIENCE**

 We’ll continue our study of space this week. Students will learn about the movement of the earth and moon and how these result in moon phases, tides, and seasons.

**ASSESSMENT**

 All students will take the district-mandated writing assessment this week. Students will be given a prompt on Monday. Younger students will have thirty minutes to write to this prompt on Tuesday. Older students will have 45 minutes on Tuesday and 45 more minutes on Wednesday. All students will be writing an opinion/argumentative piece.

**PRACTICE**

 At the end of this month all students in grades 3 through 10 will be taking the PEAKS (Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools) assessment. This test is given on the computer, and it is important that students are comfortable with the technological aspects of the test. There are many tools that are included to make the test as accessible as possible. If students don’t know how to use them, they are at a disadvantage during the actual test.

This week our third, fourth, and sixth graders will be working on the practice tests that the state has set up. The content of these practice tests doesn’t really reflect the content of the actual test, but the tools (like rulers, highlighters, and magnifiers) are exactly what the students will encounter when they take the “real” test. This practice should ensure that students can focus on the content rather than on the technology when they begin the assessment at the end of the month.