**SHARING**

 For sharing this week children should bring something with three syllables in its name. Younger students use “claps” to count syllables.

 For sharing next week children should bring a souvenir from another country.

**SPELLING**

Due to PEAKS testing, there won’t be spelling homework this week.

**MATH HOMEWORK**

 Due to PEAKS testing, there won’t be math homework this week.

**SWIMMING**

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

In general, everyone has been doing a great job remembering swim gear. We’ve had to make very few calls. Thanks!

**HOMEWORK**

 As you saw above there isn’t math or spelling homework this week. The only homework is to go outside and play! It is very important that your third, fourth, or sixth grader use that homework time to get some exercise—hopefully the weather will allow them to play outside. Sitting in front of a computer screen will be counterproductive!

**PEAKS TESTING**

 In our classroom students in grades three through six will begin the state-mandated PEAKS testing this week. This assessment is written specifically for Alaska and matches the standards I use each day to teach your child. These tests are untimed and are given on the computer. We practiced how to use the technology involved in the tests the week before spring break. Students seemed quite comfortable with it.

 This week we’ll be talking about general test-taking skills such as taking their time, double-checking their work, and doing their best on the tests.

 Third through sixth graders will begin testing on Wednesday morning. They’ll all test again on Thursday morning. On Friday morning only fourth graders will test. This week’s tests will cover Language Arts standards including reading and writing skills.

 It is very helpful if you send your child to school well-rested with a healthy breakfast those days.

 We’ll be working in an empty classroom next to our regular classroom. While we are testing, the younger students will be having a regular morning of reading and math in our classroom.