

November 25, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The first marking period has come to an end and enclosed you will find your child's report card. Please take the time to review with them their grades and discuss with them both what they are doing well in and what areas they can improve on. Please sign and date the outside of the report card envelope upon review and return only the report card envelope back to school in your child's folder. If you like to schedule a conference to discuss your child's progress, please call me at 254-2080 x1110. I am available to meet between 8:30 am and 9:00 am, 11:35 – 12:05pm, and 12:55 pm – 1:25pm.

Also, I am sending home login information for both **RAZ-Kids** and **LexiaCore 5**. Both programs are excellent for improving your child's ELA skills and reading fluency. These programs are available online and as a free app for any mobile device and iPads/tablets. Please search the programs' names in an app store to download. If you any questions, please let me know. The **LexiaCore5** program may ask for to enter my email, please use Thomas.cole@rcsdk12.org to gain access.

In attempt to build up math fact fluency, your child has been recently taking weekly addition timed quizzes. A fun and engaging way to build fluency is to play "Addition War" with your child. All it requires is a deck of playing cards, where the Kings, Queens, and Jacks are removed. Deal the deck out completely and the two players flip a card over. The player who adds the two cards up first "wins" those cards. The game is over when one player has all the cards. There are also a bunch of free apps to practice math facts.

In ELA, the students have been learning about nouns (a person, place, or thing) and proper nouns. When reading with your child, please point out or ask them the different nouns in the story. This can also be accomplished when driving or walking around town and communicating with them all the nouns that they see.

We are also learning about words that have a silent or magic “e” in the word, which pinches the vowel and makes the vowel say its name. For example, the word ‘cave’ has a magic “e”, forcing the “a” to say the long /a/ sound. Again, ask your child to locate these kinds of words in the books they are reading.

In Science, we are learning about the different classifications of animals (mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, and reptiles) and what they eat (diet), where they live (habitat), and how they survive (adaptations). Reading non-fiction books about animals will assist your child in better understanding the vocabulary.

In writing, we have been working on accurately forming our letters and making sure that each sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a punctuation mark. Please practice writing complete sentences with your child.

Sight Words: In the beginning of the year your child was assessed on their Preschool, Kindergarten, and 1st-3rd grade sight words. I am currently in the process of assessing them again to see what progress has been made. Once this is completed, I will send home an updated list of words that they know and words they still are learning. It is important for your child to learn these words to build recognition and fluency. For those parents that I have conferenced with, please continue to work off the list I gave you and thank you for meeting with me. I will again assess student progress at the end of January.

Homework: Each night your child is responsible for completing and returning their homework the next day. Also, part of their homework is to read 30 minutes each night, whether they are reading to you or you are reading to them. Please be sure that the homework is in their folder and the folder is in their bag for school.

Again, if at any time you have questions or would like to meet with me please don’t hesitate to get in touch (254-2080 x1110). I thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cole