

June 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend last weekend and spent time with family and also thinking about how lucky we are to live in the United States. The students seemed to have a lot to share when we returned on Tuesday morning.

We are trying to finish things up during these last couple of weeks together. I always feel that we have worked all year and yet we still have things to do this time of year. I try to leave some fun things for this time of year as it is challenging to keep them focused.

This week we began our science unit about forces: the pushes, pulls, and other actions that we do whenever we do work. In our first lesson your child learned that before we had machines, we had to do lots of work by hand. We talked about how machines are not magical; rather they just seem that way because there are often moving parts hidden inside.

You can encourage your child's curiosity by asking them to go on a "machine walk" around the house: invite your child to identify machines around your home. Anything which has a motor inside of it is a good candidate (examples include things like a washing machine or dryer, a dishwasher, a hair dryer, an electric toothbrush, a car). You can raise questions like "Interesting! What kind of work by hand would we have to do, if we didn't have this machine?" and "Hmm... how do you think the parts of this machine work?"

In writing, we have been learning about narratives and what makes up a narrative. Each narrative or story will have the following components: character(s), setting, problem, what the character wants and a solution. We practice telling stories using wordless books. If you have any wordless books around the house or if you visit the library over the summer they are great fun to use as you can tell a story many times, but different ways. A favorite of mine is the Carl books. Even if you don't have wordless books the children can use any book to tell a story by looking at the pictures. You can cover words with sticky notes or lightly tape paper over words. You can just tell a story. We don't allow our children enough practice in telling stories orally before expecting them to write stories. Try looking at a picture and having them tell a story and then someone else tell a story about the same picture. Calendar pictures lend themselves very well to this. You can also look online to find pictures to use. It is a lot of fun to do. Try it on a rainy day this summer.

Just to let you know a little in advance the students will need to try to wear a pink shirt or something pink on field day. This is helpful to look for groups of students on that day. If your child doesn't have something pink no worries. There will be hot dogs for hot lunch that day and weather permitting we will eat outside as a special treat.

I will be slowly sending home things next week so the students begin to see our classroom come down and realize that it is okay as we say goodbye for the summer as we will all be together at WRS in the fall.

Upcoming Events:

6/2: RIF Coin Drop Fundraiser- Taft Flat (near Curves) 10:00- @2:00

6/12: Field Day- hot lunch will be hot dogs, pink shirt for Cerasoli students

6/13: Last day of school for students

Have a great weekend!