

4/5 PALs News

May 2015

End of Year Calendar Dates

Wednesday May 27 -- Field Day (Thurs. Rain date)

Lunch and recess 11:30-12:30

Activity rotation 12:30-2:15

Thursday, June 4 -- Rocket launch (1:40)

Friday, June 5 -- Kalahari Trip (fifth grade Safety Patrol members)

Monday, June 8 -- Constitution Day (kids plan this day)

Tuesday, June 9 -- Governor Nelson State Park field trip (8:00-2:15)

Wednesday, June 10 -- Fives Graduation (12:15)

Thursday, June 11 -- Last day of school, Early dismissal (12:20)

Ms. Cook's Absence

We have done our best to maintain routines and expectations during Ms. Cook's lengthy absence. Ms. Cook is regaining her mobility and strength and fully intends to be with us again in the fall. Much of the news contained here reflects traditions established over time.

Pink Sheet

You may have heard about the "pink sheet." Students currently have a checklist (on pink paper) that includes a number of tasks that they must complete over the final weeks of school.

Assignments on the list include: making a book recommendation for summer reading, completing a best memories essay or a letter to a 98, reflecting on six portfolio entries, completing math computation for each operation, and doing some additional math and social studies assignments.

Some of the extras we have planned such as rockets and participation in Constitution Day are dependent on work completion. We believe that, with appropriate focus, all tasks are attainable for students and we make necessary modifications to support kids who extend appropriate effort. While most students are motivated by the extras, some seem to prefer to sit and chat during work time.

Maintaining appropriate engagement through the last weeks of school can be challenging for students. We will keep our high expectations for work, behavior and attitude amidst some of the fun.

Constitution Day

Following an overview of the branches of government, students now have the chance to act as legislators to plan a day of school for themselves. This involves lengthy debate as they plan activities that are school appropriate and sensitive to the needs of all 4/5 PALs and teachers. We call the day they plan Constitution Day. Bills that pass both houses of Congress and receive executive approval to become "laws" will be shared prior to June 8.

No Homework

The first bill to pass both houses was a no homework bill. This took effect last week. The final assignment of the school year is the project self assessment, which includes a written reflection, parent comment and signature. Students are still encouraged to read on a daily basis, but other homework is optional. Students with missing homework assignments from prior to May 19 are expected to catch up.

Rocket Launch

Students are making rocket parts as they meet expectations at school. We could use help with hot glueing toward the end of this week and early next week. We will launch rockets after second recess Thursday, June 4. Let your child know if you're able to help and when. S/he can give you a call to confirm a good time.

Field Trip

We take an annual trip to a state park. On Tuesday, June 9, we will be going to Governor Nelson State Park as a final celebration. We will need several parents who would like to spend the day outside, playing, hiking, and just enjoying time with this great group of kids. There is a check-off on the permission slip if you are able to join us, or just give us a call to let us know you can be there for all or part of the day.

Graduation

It is a tradition in the PALs 4/5 that the fours plan a graduation celebration for the fives. This takes shape in different ways each year, depending on what the fours decide, however it is usually a fun and moving event. This year's graduation is at 12:15 in the steproom, and all parents of fives should have received an invitation in the mail. Parents are encouraged to attend if there is any way they can arrange it, and you can RSVP at 845-4272 with how many will be attending.

There may be a short, low-key gathering where Mr. Pisani says a few words to all Stoner Prairie fifth graders. They may receive a treat such as a muffin or cupcake, and students would get a chance to sign each other's yearbooks. Parents are welcome to attend this as well, however it is not a graduation ceremony. If you must choose between the two events, the afternoon PALs event is more specifically honoring the growth and achievement of individual children, whereas the morning event is celebrating the group.

Verona Area School District

Curricular and Co-Curricular Permission Form

Before students are allowed to leave the school premises for a field trip or school sponsored activity, parent/guardian permission must be obtained.

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

4/5 PALs Field trip: Governor Nelson State Park

Weather permitting; your child is likely to get wet on this field trip. Sending a towel and water shoes is optional.

Students should wear sturdy shoes for hiking, and will need a sack lunch and drink. We also need to charge \$4.00 to cover costs for the bus and a treat.

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This form must be completed and returned to school. This information is only applicable for the June 9th, Governor Nelson event.

Name of Child _____

In case of emergency who is the person to be contacted during the scheduled event?

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Name | Phone Number |
| Address | Relationship to Child |

Indicate any known health concerns or problems of your child and precautions to take:

| |
|--|
| |
| |

Please provide a form for my child to order a school lunch.

I would like to chaperone this field trip.

Please send the criminal background check form.

Background check form already submitted.

I give permission for my child to attend this event.

I have included \$4.00 to cover the cost of the trip

I have included extra to support students in need.

parent signature

date