

Mrs. Benjamin's News

September 24, 2010

It has been great getting to know each other. Students are familiar with the schedule and routines. Everyone has been working on following our class rules and making friends.

Our Early America unit is going well. So far students have learned about schools, trades, chores, Pilgrims, wagon trains and the thirteen colonies. Our focus has been change over time. We have been comparing then and now and discovered that some things remain the same.

We postponed our trip to **Airport Park** because of rain. We will be going on **Monday** if the weather is fine. **Please remember to dress your child appropriately for a long walk and over 2 hours of being outside.**

Your child should have come home with their first math homelink packet on Wednesday. You can expect these to go home on most Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs. Collins will check that homework is done nightly and snip the corner to make it easier to find the next night's page. **Please notice the date stamped on each assignment. Do not go ahead!** The homework goes with the day's lesson. There is no homework when students are taking the unit test. We will do the first one on Unit 1 next week. I will attach your child's results on the next newsletter. I organize the homelinks by unit. Between the field trip and testing it might be Wednesday before unit 2 packet goes home. Thanks for checking your child's backpack nightly. **Homelinks should always be returned the next day.**

Now for homework, your child should be reading nightly and doing homelinks. This is not meant to be a stressful time. If the assignment is too difficult just show the attempt and write a

quick note. The recommended time to spend is 20 minutes.

All students have been set up with a RAZ account. This is an internet site that you may also access from home if you have a computer. I have attached the web address and password necessary for your child to get to our class page. There are several books available for children to read at the level. Students also take a test after they are finished to check their comprehension. I will be monitoring what students have read on a regular basis.

Also attached is a **Scholastic book order.** This is a great way to purchase books at a reasonable price. Our class will also earn points to get books for our classroom library. **Please make out just one check to Scholastics and return all orders by October 1st.**

Our field trip to Shelburne Museum is on Friday, October 1st. It is always a fun and educational experience. Hopefully you can join us. Everyone is expected to bring a **bag lunch and drinks for the day.** There is no refrigeration. Backpacks will be left in outdoor cubbies. The children will be responsible for carrying their own backpack. More information will be going home at the end of next week,

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our **Open House on Thursday, September 30th.** This is a great opportunity to see what we have been up to and to show off. Please do not ask me private questions about your child. Everyone is doing a great job. Please set up a quieter time to talk if you have concerns.

Happy Fall!