



PARENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 23, 2008

¡Hola a todos! I hope that everyone had a great break last week enjoyed the beautiful fall weather. Thank you all for coming to meet with me for conferences last week. It was great to talk to each of you and to your child about goals for the year. Students will be writing down these goals and the ways to accomplish each goal, to bring home as a reference for each family. Jumping back into class, we have spent more time discussing how to foster a safe and respectful environment for everyone here, and how to best work together to accomplish our goals.

We are continuing our studies of the human body, math, U.S. government and the upcoming elections. I was thrilled to see what students were able to produce for their own “campaigns!” They had some great platform ideas, and very creative poster and button designs. We have a guest (a grandparent) coming to talk about her experience as a super-delegate, and the process of electing a candidate within one party, and what that process involves. So we will continue examining political campaigns and areas of government, a topic in which students have been very engaged, interested, and insightful. We plan to cast our own votes for President too!

We began our English spelling program, in which words are introduced on Mondays and students are tested on Fridays. On Mondays, you can look for the Word Study Strategy worksheet for students to practice during the week. Throughout the week, students will bring home spelling assignments, and occasionally I will include instructions for parents in best guiding students’ practice and learning for these assignments. On Fridays, students will bring home a Words to Learn sheet, which will have any words they spelled incorrectly on the Friday test, in addition to any challenge words. Students should continue studying these words, as some will appear on later tests.

As for Spanish “Ortografía” (spelling), it will be staggered with English. I hope to begin making this more consistent by introducing words on Wednesdays and testing on the following Tuesday. So watch for those spelling lists as well (Palabras a Practicar).

We also began art class with our ½ day Kindergarten teacher, Amanda Lea. Students will work with Srta. Lea for 1 hour, every two weeks, on various art projects.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, October 28: Late Start - school will begin 2 hours later than usual.

Friday, October 31: Halloween - For Halloween, we would like for all the students to dress up as a book character that they know well. Please do not feel as though you need to go buy a new costume. You can use things you have around the house. Many book characters are just ordinary people. You can also use paper to create many things (a pig snout, a crown, a magic wand...).

¡Qué tengan un día magnífico!