August 12,2013

Dear Parents,

Wow! It seems to me like time is already flying by! There is a fair amount of work in your child’s Blue Folder this week. This work reflects the class learning about expectations, following directions, working in groups as well as completing tasks independently. This work has also allowed me to begin to assess your child’s learning styles and current level of understanding of basic topics. If all homework was completed, you should see a big check mark that spans M – F. If any homework assignments were missing, I have noted.

I have assigned the first Book Report and it is due September 9. All students should have a realistic fiction book they are reading for this project. I’ve distributed instructions as well as a rubric. I’ve cautioned students that as with all projects, this is not something that can be done well the night before it is due.

Current Events will play a big role in our classroom this year and is an ongoing component of the 4th grade social studies program. Most importantly, I want students to understand why news is important in our daily lives and how these events affect us, as well as those around us. I would like to categorize our current events into 4 different categories: Local (news in our immediate area), State (news that happens in Arizona), National (news from anywhere in the U.S.) and Global (news happening in other parts of the world). Each month, students will be responsible for bringing a current event to share with the class. Students can use several sources for locating a current event such as: newspapers, magazines or internet news sites. Your role is to help your child select an appropriate article, allow your son/daughter to read the article independently and then together discuss and answer any questions he/she might have. Although at this time there is no written component to this assignment, there is a great outline on the website under the “Current Events” tab that is very helpful. If I notice that students are not really “getting it”, I may require this written portion. The rubric for this assignment is also posted on the class website. Today I modeled what I would like to see from students as they present their events to the class. We also read an article together and completed a Current Events outline. I will address this in more detail at Curriculum Night if you have questions. First current event topic is “Local” and will be due no later than Friday, September 13.

I’m looking forward to another great week! Feel free to email me with any questions or comments.