Dear Parents and Others,

Greetings! It’s been a wonderful first two months with your children. We have covered a LOT of academic material, and I’ve had a lot of fun with the children as we’ve done so. For the most part, I think my students would agree that the school year is a good one! Behavior, participation and motivation have all been high. I have high expectations for this class, and your children are living up to those expectations in a delightful way! Thanks for sharing your son/daughter with me!

The fieldtrip to the Weinberg and to Rose Hill Manor went smoothly. The students learned lots of new things (so did I), and we had an enjoyable time. (If your child walks around the house balancing a broomstick on one hand, please don’t get annoyed: he/she is just experimenting with science concepts of gravity and balance!) Thanks to those of you who chaperoned or offered your help with the trip and to all of you who helped your child prepare for it.

We wish our Nina well, as she prepares to leave us and move to Texas. We’ll miss her, but we hope that she’ll correspond with the class. Perhaps we’ll get a Texas pen pal and get to practice our writing skills!

Have a lovely extended weekend!

Sincerely,
“Mrs. A.”

Here’s an overview of what’s going on:

LANGUAGE ARTS
Reading and Writing  We are working on our Short Story Unit, using tall tales, folk tales, myths and realistic fiction stories as they relate to elements of literature and to the writing process. There will be a short October Book Project based on the realistic fiction your child has been reading (see below.)

OCTOBER Book Project  Design a costume for the main character in your novel. It needs to be based on your character’s interests or personality. Write an explanation justifying your costume choice for your character, using details from the text to support your choice. (See attached form.)
WORD STUDY and VOCABULARY  We are nearing the end of our work on using affixes (prefixes and suffixes) to change the meaning/form of root words. We are going to move on to detailed instruction about syllabication, which will help with decoding and spelling more complicated vocabulary. We’ll also be working on using dictionary skills.

MATH  We are just now completing our unit on statistics and probability and about to begin a unit on multiplication with more double digit numbers and related division problems. Children have adjusted well to math groupings, and I am very much enjoying the progress made and enthusiasm expressed by the group of students with whom I am working.

SOCIAL STUDIES  We are just beginning our first unit on Maryland, still talking about how to use a Social Studies text and read a map, but soon to move on to Early Maryland History.

SCIENCE  Children are starting to think about Science Fair Projects (which are required in 4th Grade.) Information went home in last week’s Thursday folder, and more information will go home when children have decided upon (and gotten a teacher’s “thumbs up” for) a topic/investigation.

HOMEWORK & AGENDA  
* Your child should check his/her agenda nightly. A parent should initial the assignment column when homework is complete. This is your child’s responsibility. Agendas are checked in school, usually on Fridays.

* Reading for fun or for information is required every night, even on weekends. (Reading should become a life-long habit!) Children should record what they have read in their agendas Monday through Thursday.

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Keeping in Touch . . . If you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions about any child-related matters, you can email me (mary.antosca@fcps.org) or call me (240-566-0077 at school; 301-834-6104 at home; 301-639-2675 to TEXT on my cell phone) or just write a quick note below and send it to school with your child. (Email is usually most reliable.) Note: I try to respond to parents within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me within that time - or if you need a quicker response - please do not hesitate to email or call again! In an emergency, please contact the front office.