

September 8, 2017



Dear Parents,

It's been a great first week of school! I hope you'll be hearing all kinds of stories about things we've already done, learned, and worked on. Please ask your children every day to tell you something they learned or did, and don't accept "nothin'" for the answer!

As a rule, I don't assign the children *extra* homework on a nightly basis. In my class, homework the children bring home will be unfinished class work. (A certain Maryland teacher made the national news a couple weeks ago when she sent a letter home to her students' parents, explaining that this is her policy, and it went *viral*, but this has been my homework policy for at least 8 years!) For each lesson taught, I allow time to begin the assignment so that I can check for understanding and give the children a chance to practice what I've taught, and some of the children will be able to finish the work. Assignments not finished during the day become homework and must be handed in the following morning by 8:00. It is important that all homework be done on time, *at home*, as each lesson builds on the previous one, and new skills need to be practiced the day they are taught. Daily practice is such an important life skill, and teaches self-discipline and organization. Regarding homework, though, I did explain to the children that I expect them to be reading every day at home, at least 15 minutes, and playing outside when the weather permits (snow included!) Family games and dinner table conversation are so important in child development. Video games and watching TV- not so much. ☹ Exercise (outside play) is very important in growth and development, and ensures a good appetite and a good night's sleep. From time to time, there will be projects, and I will give ample notice for these, as well as very clear directions sent home.



You can expect to see a **spelling** list come home on Mondays, when every student receives two copies of the new week's list- one for school and one to study at home. Nightly practice is expected, as is **daily independent reading**- magazines, books- anything of interest to your child. Typically, we see that many children lose some ground in **reading and math**, especially subtraction facts, during the summer. Check your child out with a few facts. If they are subtracting (or adding!) using their fingers, they DO NOT KNOW their facts. If you have flash cards, please use these with your child until he or she is fluent-- fast and accurate. In the first math chapter, (chapter 5), we're working on place value, then rounding. Multiplication facts will be worked on **heavily** later this fall and through the winter, for speed and accuracy. **Cursive writing** instruction has already begun--we start with the simple round letters- a, o, e, and c. In **science**, we'll be beginning our Life Science unit next week, which will also include **the butterfly unit**.



You can expect to see assignment books come home every night. Each day, we list a summary of what we worked on through the day, and assignments that were given. The children are to show it to a parent each evening, and I ask that you sign it each time; in this way, I'm comfortable knowing that you have some idea of what your child is learning and working on in school, and are *aware* of the homework assignments that they need to complete. As I've told them, the homework is *their* responsibility to complete- *it is not yours!* Please feel free to communicate with me here, if you'd like to write a short note- I try to check them each morning. Even better- send me an email- see page 2!

Friday folders will be sent home on Fridays, with your child's graded work from the week. Please take time to look through the work with your child and encourage him or her, then return the empty folder on Mondays.

I'll be sending Scholastic Book orders home each month and when I do send them home, I'll allow about one week to return them with money, if you wish to order. You may send cash, or a check made out to "Scholastic". This is entirely optional; usually Scholastic offers the best prices I've seen on brand-new paperbacks for children. Also popular and at the third grade reading level (but easy chapter reading) are the Cam Jansen books, Jigsaw Jones mysteries, Freckle Juice, and Magic Tree House books. Usborne science books are AWESOME! Take some time to look through the flyer I'm sending home today. This book order will be due to me by next Friday, September 15th. (Christmas is only 15 weeks away and books make great

gifts and stocking stuffers!) If you order from both book orders, the total may be combined in one check, as they are both Scholastic.



We have 16 children in our class. Birthdays may be celebrated whenever it is convenient for you, if you wish to send in a treat. ☺ (Summer birthdays can be celebrated in June.)

In the past, I have always been available by phone at school (965-2742) and will continue to do so, but often I end up playing phone tag for awhile, since many of you also work outside of your home. If you would like, send me your e-mail address, or simply e-mail it to me at school: bfaxlanger@forestville.com. I check my email daily (at home too), and this may simplify communications. If you prefer to call, my extension is 732, but during the day, all calls to teachers go directly to voicemail. If you leave a message, I will return your call. If you have an emergency, just call the school # and speak directly with the secretary.

If your child is to be absent and you send me an email, I can have your child's work ready by noon for you to pick up. It makes it much easier for the child when returning to school.

As in the past, we are saving Campbell's soup labels and Box Tops 4 Education, school-wide.

I read to the children every single day after lunch. If YOU would ever like to come in and read to them (for about 10-15 minutes), we'd love to have you. Just send me a note or email!

Snacks- just a reminder that we do have a healthy (*no candy or pop*) snack time each day at about 9:45. Each child brings his or her own snack, and I've encouraged the children to pack their snacks the night before. This can be their responsibility.

Water bottles: the children may certainly bring them, but the generic plastic recyclable ones must be labeled with your child's name!

And, my website. Right now, it's quite pared down, but I'll be adding lots to it through the year. Check it frequently. www.forestville.com, then click on "Our Teachers", then "Mrs. Faxlanger". **If you misplace the calendar or any newsletter, you can find it on my website. If you lose the school menu, it can be found on the general school website. All spelling lists and newsletters will also be posted on my webpages, and very soon I will have a page for pictures of the children in school.** (Regarding internet safety: I will NOT tag the children's pictures with their names.)

A reminder- please check your child's backpack and assignment book *nightly*, and if you haven't returned the information packet from the office, please do so as soon as possible.

Last, here is our specials schedule: (Note- Library Book Exchange is Wednesday.)

Monday Library 8:15-8:45

Tuesday Phys Ed 8:15-8:45 and Computer 1:30-2:00

Wednesday Phys Ed 8:15-8:45 and Library 1:30-2:00 **Book Exchange Day**

Thursday Phys Ed 8:15-8:45, Chorus 12:55-1:25, and Music 1:30-2:00

Friday Art 9:25-9:55

Lunch is from 11:30-12:00 every day!

I hope all this helps! I look forward to meeting all of you at Open House, Thursday, October 12th.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Faxlanger

P.S. If you still have forms to be filled out from the annual school packet send home the first day (health and chorus permission slips), please try to return these on Monday. Thank you!