

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a fine first quarter. As a class we have been working on establishing a routine and practicing good study habits. Organization is definitely a key to success. Assist your child by checking his/her agenda and asking to see their schoolwork. Parents may access student grades on the Aspen parent portal. It is the responsibility of each student to complete all assignments on time. Please set aside time for homework each night. Students should also be reading independently a minimum of twenty minutes daily. A total of twenty-five books are required for the school year, these books count for 10% of their reading grade.

In Language Arts we have been exploring the BIG QUESTION – How does struggle help one find his/her strengths and weaknesses? Our unit theme is Learning from Experience. We have read many stories that lead characters to make discoveries about themselves, about other people, and about the world around them. As a class we are fortunate to be participating in Adventure Stage Chicago's Neighborhood Bridges program that focuses on building critical literacy skills through story telling, creative drama and writing. Our work revolves around our Inquiry Question: How can we provide shelter to one another? Jamie Olah is our teacher artist. She brings a lot of great ideas and energy to our class each week.

In social studies, we examined the Colonial Era of the United States. We are currently learning about the "shot heard around the world" in other words the American Revolution. Before we know it we will begin to study The Constitution, the Supreme Law of our Land. All students must pass a Constitution test to graduate from elementary school.

It is a pleasure being your child's teacher. Thank you for your support and confidence. Be sure to replenish supplies as needed.

Sincerely,

Debra Liu, NBCTsocial studies/history
daliu@cps.edu