

Friday, March 28, 2008

Dear Parent,

I cannot believe there are only 49 days of school left! We have finished the first week of our 4-week thematic unit, On Our Way: Land, Air and Water Transportation. We have already studied about cars and buses, as well as transportation by animal. Our Big Book was Wheels On The Bus and our Science Link Book was Wheels All Around. The Kinder Friends Book was To School. The Big and Little Book this week was I Can Read Signs. The Phonics Library book was Dot Got A Big Pot.

The third quarter of school ends next Friday, April 4. Next week I will be conducting formal assessments. It is important for the students to have a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast so that they will be at peak performance. Report cards will be mailed home on Friday, April 11. If you have moved or changed addresses, please make sure the office has your current mailing address. Conferences are NOT mandatory this quarter. If you would like to have a meeting, please call the office to schedule one for Wednesday, April 23.

Recently an important study was released that concluded kids who watch TV were more likely to bully. I will quote from the article, "*Chicago, Illinois (Reuters) -- The more television 4-year-old children watch the more likely they are to become bullies later on in school, a U.S. study said on Monday. At the same time, children whose parents read to them, take them on outings and just generally pay attention to them are less likely to become bullies, said the report from the University of Washington. At the same time, children whose parents read to them, take them on outings and just generally pay attention to them are less likely to become bullies, said the report from the University of Washington.*

*Bullying can now be added to the list of potential negative consequences of excessive television viewing along with obesity, inattention and other types of aggression, said Frederick Zimmerman who led the research.*

Previous research had indicated that emotional support from parents helps young children develop empathy, self-regulation and social skills, making them less likely to be bullies, said the report published in the April issue of the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. Whether the child ate meals with both parents, whether parents talked to the child while working were also measured, along with the average number of hours of television viewed."