



Dear Parents,

November 3, 2014

This year in **Social Studies** & **Science** the students will be doing a special assignment each quarter called "**Reporting Current Events** & **Science News**." You should find the form attached to this letter. The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to research current events in the areas of **Current Events AND Science & Technology**. (To keep the 2 subjects straight, **Current Events will be Yellow** & **Science News will be pink**.) This will be a **TEST GRADE**, and in most cases, will help their overall grades, unless they do not do it.

In the past, students have brought in articles from magazines, newspapers and off student friendly internet sites. **Science articles need to be about the subject we are currently studying.** **Current Events can be about any human interest story since Social Studies is the study of people.** Students are expected to complete the attached form and orally present to the class by the due date at the top of the page. They should bring their article and submit it with their form after presenting to the class. I will give all articles back, so if they are in a magazine for instance, you need not tear out the article.

It is better for them to present sooner than later. I ask that the articles be within one year of the month we are presenting - of course, the more recent, the better. Example being, the current month is October, so articles may go back to October 2013. I can make slight exceptions in the date if it a subject that they ask me about and in which they are extremely interested. There will be a sign up sheet in my classroom so they may write down the name of the article and the location from where it came.

One reason to present early is that I do not want **duplicate** articles. Thus, the sooner your child chooses their article, the more likelihood that their article will be different from the other students in class. This is another reason they must sign up once they choose their article.

Students should let me know when they are ready and I will try and make arrangements for them to present the same day. If we cannot find time that day, then I will have them present as soon as possible.

I also ask that you monitor your child's choices of articles. If you notice that they are choosing articles that are short and below their reading level, I encourage you to challenge them to something more difficult. If, on the other hand, they are interested in something more challenging, they may need your assistance in comprehending it.

Your student has been trained in finding an article and completing the form for Current Event & Science News as we practiced in class. Science News we did together whole group and Current Event they worked in small groups. These 2 articles will be on the 1st card marking. Each semester the students will be required to present one of each. The forms are also located on the class webpage: www.pizzopress.weebly.com in the case of lost forms.

Possible places to find Science and Technology articles include:
Popular Science Magazine, Ranger Rick Magazines, Time for Kids Magazines,
<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>, National Geographic for Kids (magazine and website), <http://www.sciencemadesimple.com>,
<http://www.kidshealth.org/kid/> (then type in "articles" in the search area),
<http://www.suite101.com/scienceandnature/>,
<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/hottopics.htm>

Current Event places:

www.timeforkids.com

www.teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/

www.weeklyreader.com

www.washingtonpost.com/kidspost/

AND MANY MORE! WIKEPEDIA is not a credible site and students should not select article from there. Please make sure that the topic is a Current Event OR Science and/or Technology related, depending which subject we're presenting.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pizzo

Please sign below indicating that you have received this letter and the attached form.

Child's Name _____ Date _____

Parent signature _____