



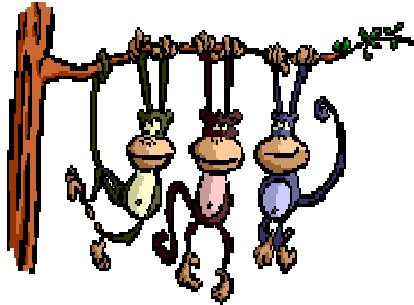
# Mrs Ripper's Safari Travel Log

1st Grade, Room 52

September 2, 2011

## Itinerary

- 5 Monday—No School Labor Day
- 6 Tuesday—B day, Art  
PTO Meeting— 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Wed. —C day, Music  
All School Mass
- 8 Thurs—A day, P.E.  
Bring in Library books
- 9 Friday-B day, Art
- 12 Mon— C day, Music  
All School Mass
- 13 Tuesday—A day, P.E.  
Fall Pictures—uniforms
- 14 Wed—B day, Art
- 15 Thurs—C day, Music  
Bring in Library books
- 16 Friday—A day, P.E.  
EARLY RELEASE  
Golf Tournament
- 19 Mon— B day, Art  
All School Mass
- 20 Tuesday—C day, Music  
Fall Pictures—uniforms
- 21 Wed—A day, P.E.
- 22 Thurs—B day, Art  
Bring in Library books
- 23 Friday—C day, Music



Our journey continues to run smoothly. It didn't take long for all of this year's passengers to get on board. After only spending a few brief days outlining the rules and procedures for our upcoming adventure, our learning safari was quickly underway. What a good beginning—what a great class! Thank you for helping to get the school year off to a great start. In this short period of time, I have been given glimpses of the wonders that makes your child special. I can hardly wait to see what success happens down the "path".

Much of our time has been focused on walking through procedures and setting up classroom

## Hanging Out On the Path to Success

and school routines. While at the same time, I have been doing informal pre-tests and assessments to see where the children are and where we have to go. As they say, no news is good news. If there are any questions or concerns about these assessments, I will get with you. At this point, it looks like your children are going to make my job easy this year!

We have been discussing the idea of individuality, strengths and weaknesses. We have discussed the fact that we learn through our mistakes and so, it is okay not to be 100% perfect the first time we do things, if we give it 100% effort. We also worked on understanding how and why we ask for help.

We are blessed to have fantastic technology in our classroom which enables us to use individual white boards, computers, and smart boards instead of paper to do things many sub-

jects such as handwriting papers, reading comprehension, phonics and math practice. This lets me see on the spot who may need additional help.

So, the long and short—not much paperwork may be coming home in some subjects but a lot of important work is being done.

Here is a glimpse of where our journeys have taken us:

**Language Arts** — We have worked on letter/sound combinations, rhyming, word families, syllables, capitalization rules, punctuation marks, free writing, letter formation and error proofing.

**Religion**—parts of the Mass, prayer, the Holy Trinity, saints, family and God the Creator

**Math**—patterns, number recognition, number names and spellings, counting, grouping, problem solving and comparing numbers

**Themes**—All About Me and living/non living things and plants



## Don't Go Bananas . . .

As you and your child may have noted, we work at a quicker pace than in Kindergarten. This can seem to frustrate some of the kids. This is to be expected as they work through the process of independent learning based on their reading skills and ability to ask for help. What can you do to help?

1. Go over papers with them and give them a pat on the back for all

2. Let them know that mistakes are how we learn. It's not how many times we tried but the fact that we kept trying.
3. Encourage them to raise their hand and ask a question if they get lost. I'll explain a million times as long as they are willing to their effort. Review the concept if they seem to have made several mistakes.



keep working through it.

4. If you work on skills at home, make sure it is fun—i.e. a game format. Remember they have just worked 7 hours here at school. Just as we do, they like to leave their work at the door when they leave their "job".
5. Read, read, read with them nightly!

Like I said, we have taken off on our adventures—we are on the right path to a great year!

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Happy Birthday Wishes  
 Kory Campbell  
 August 26  
 Claire Coates  
 September 7



### Information yet to come

- King/Queen of the Jungle rules
- Wild About Your Work
- Challenge Cards
- SuccessMaker
- Accelerated Reader pro-

### High Frequency Words

|     |         |    |
|-----|---------|----|
| an  | are     | I  |
| is  | make(s) | on |
| the | was     |    |

These are words they have learned already and need to have instant recognition of, as well as know how to spell. Practice, practice, practice is needed.

### Be on the Look out



Next week, you will see a September calendar in your homework folder. What is this for?

This is a way to track your child's reading. As part of your child's nightly homework, they are to read at least 15 minutes each school day.

I ask that each day your child does this, you initial the square.

Please understand that reading can be done in many creative ways. Some examples are listed on the calendar, or have fun coming up with any of your own.

For tracking purposes, anything that engages the reading process is acceptable: finding words, reading recipes, finding the alphabet or words that begin with a certain letter, etc... can be listed. If your child is reading, please encourage them to begin one book and finish it. This is a hard skill for young readers to learn. They often jump around.

Do not turn the calendar in weekly. I will check it at the end of the month. You will be reminded through the newsletter and homework assignment sheet of when to turn the calendar in.

## Have fun reading!



### Math Concepts

**Pattern**-an order that a set of objects or numbers follows over and over  
 (ex: A, A, B, A, A, B ...)

**Pattern unit**-repeats over and over to make a pattern

**Number**-tells how many

### When Homework Begins, What Then . . .

Homework will begin on September 12th. The basic procedure is as follows:

- The blue homework folder will be given to your child on Monday (or, the first school day of the week).
- There will be a paper in it with day by day listing of the homework for that week.
- Complete each assignment as indicated. As the students are still learning to read and follow directions, they may need some help from you to understand what to do. Please, however, allow for them to

complete the answers on their own.

- I understand that families have nighttime activities, therefore feel free to complete the assignments as they fit into your upcoming schedule. Realize though, some concepts may not be being taught until the day assigned. Also note that while some kids will be able to complete the assignments all at once, doing them a little at a time helps to set a better study habit for the future.
- So, once each task is

completed, place it back in the homework folder.

- Bring all completed assignments back to me in the blue folder on **Friday**. I do not want it earlier, even if they are finished.

