Thank you to everyone who sent in empty 2 liter soda bottles. The aquariums and terrariums are set up and thriving. The children are enjoying observing the ecosystems.

We had a blast at the Aquarium!
Everyone enjoyed the day at the aquarium in Baltimore! This trip allowed students to get an up close and personal glimpse at a variety of animal species and their habitats. Students did a fantastic job representing Clearspring while we were out of the building. Thank you to all of the parents who helped keep our kids safe by chaperoning this fun trip.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES
The Halloween Parade will begin at 2:30 on October 31th. After the parade children will return to their classrooms. Due to the time constraints of having a later lunch there will be no parties in the classroom after the parade. We hope to see all of you as we march outside the school!

TESTING, TESTING, TESTING!!
Students just completed MAP-R and MAP-M assessments. The MAP (Measurement of Academic Performance- Reading and Math) are computer based assessments that provide real-time data on your child’s strengths and needs in these subject areas. We are proud of all students for the effort and persistence throughout these tasks. We will be taking the tests again in the Winter and then again in the Spring and we are confident all students will use the skills they’ve gained during class and through their work to show high levels of growth in all subject areas throughout the year. Students will participate in the PARCC assessment again this year. Stay tuned for details.
Looking Ahead…
10/3  No School
10/10 Open House
10/12 No School
11/4  1st Marking Period ends

Progress Reports
Progress reports will be going home the week of Oct. 4th. Please keep an eye out for them in your child’s backpack.

Parent Teacher Conferences - Nov. 10th & 11th
If you haven’t scheduled a parent/teacher conference, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

Science
In Science, we are continuing to work on our Ecosystems Unit. We are studying how living things interact with each other and how living things depend on non-living things. We are building our vocabulary with new words such as ecosystem, producers, consumers, and environment.

Social Studies
In September our focus in social studies was natural and human made features in Maryland. Some of the Maryland human made features we studied were I-96, Deep Creek Lake and the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel. We also used map elements to create a map of the United States.

In October our focus will be on the Native Americans before the settlement of the United States. We will learn about the Native Americans of the Plains, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast and Northeast. Students will be able to describe how each group used their resources and changed their environment in order to survive.
Reading
We’ve been very busy in Reading class! Currently, we are finishing up our novels in guided reading groups. Students are working on determining theme, making inferences, and identifying the author’s point of view. After completing our novels we will be reading informational texts and using evidence from these texts to support responses. Students will be using the information from their text to support and write their informative writing piece.

READ EVERY NIGHT
In order to improve comprehension and reading skills, students should be reading for 30 minutes each night or at least 150 minutes each week. All students are to track their completed novels throughout the year using the link on Google Classroom. It is the expectation that every student will read at least 25 novels by the end of 4th grade. Your support is greatly appreciated with this important task.

Math
So far we focused on the measurement topic of Number and Operations in Base Ten. We read and wrote numbers to one million, spent time drawing and using number lines to round to a given place, and currently we are using standard algorithms to add and subtract. As we look ahead we will be using what learned to solve problems.

Math related games are posted on there Google Classroom in their Google account. The games are specifically chosen to support skills we are working on and to promote fact fluency.

Compacted Math
We are off to a great start in Compacted Math. We cruised through place value and adding and subtracting using the standard algorithm. (Same way we all learned just change in terminology. We now call it composing and decomposing instead of carrying and borrowing.) We used number lines to round numbers to any place and are set to do some problem solving. In the near future we will begin multiplication and division. Students should be able to multiply and divide up to 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number by the time we finish.
GOOGLE ACCOUNTS

Students can access their Google email and Drive from any device with internet access. The easiest way to gain this access is through the Chrome web browser, however they can log in from the Google homepage. All students have their log in IDs and passwords, but please contact your child’s homeroom teacher if you are in need of this information. Please see the attached document with step-by-step directions.