Dear Center Parents,

April brings us spring break and a busy month of learning. Students will visit the spring book fair, take two field trips, and participate in the Drew Center for Enriched Studies Open House. Please continue to sign Student Agendas nightly, Thursday Folders and Reading Logs weekly, Data Notebooks monthly and math exit cards as they are brought home.

Marking Period 3 will continue through April 3rd. During the first week of April and throughout MP4, center students continue the William and Mary Change autobiography unit. Students have worked on creating personal timelines using the photos. After reading memoirs, students will read authors’ works to uncover how authors’ memories and experiences influence their writing. As inspired by the authors they have studied, students will then create their own memoirs.

In the beginning of the MP4, 4-5 Math students will begin to use place value strategies to solve 4-digit by 2-digit division problems. As with multiplication, the emphasis is on place value understanding and basic fact connections. Students will NOT use the standard algorithm for division. We will spend three weeks on geometry topics including graphing in the first quadrant of the coordinate plane and analyzing the relationships between three- and four-sided polygons. Later, students will use benchmark and equivalent fraction strategies to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. They will then practice using decimal fractions (tenths, hundredths and thousandths) to solve measurement word problems.

In Social Studies, students will continue to learn about colonization of America. They will learn about Maryland government. Our field trip to Historic St. Mary’s City on April 12, will bring Maryland state history to life. Students will explore a replica of The Dove (the surprisingly small sailing ship that brought settlers to our shores in 1634), investigate a Yaocomaco witchott, visit Maryland’s first state house, and learn about life on a seventeenth century farm. In Science, our focus will turn to the study electricity and magnetism.

Thanks to the many parents who were able to see student presentations during the Fourth Center Immigration Wax Museum. What a wonderful event to showcase all of the hard work students did during the immigration unit! Thanks in advance to our HSMC and Annie chaperones.

Best wishes for a terrific spring break. We look forward to a busy final quarter of the school year.

Kim Leichtling and Sara Smith

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P.S. Thank you for the donations of hand sanitizer and tissues. We would appreciate additional donations of tissues, pencils and wide-rule notebook paper.