Dear Families,

The kids have done a fabulous job with the SBA testing this week! They are so helpful in getting the laptops set up every morning and have shown great perseverance while taking the test. Aside from testing, here’s what else is going on in Room 107...

**Reading:** We have been learning about author’s purpose and point of view and how knowing these things can help us better understand what we read. Our next unit is on poetry. Students will learn to “read like a writer” as we explore different types of poems, such as haiku, limericks, and acrostics.

**Writing:** We wrapped up our opinion writing unit and I really enjoyed seeing what topics the kids chose and the reasons for their opinions. Third graders definitely have great ideas! After break, we will have a short unit on poetry, which will tie in with our reading activities. Students will learn about figurative language, word choice, rhythm and rhyming, repetition and patterns.

**Math:** We finished our unit on fractions and will spend some time reviewing before taking the unit test next Wednesday. After break, we will revisit multiplication and division. Students will be looking at patterns in products, working on basic facts as well as extended facts, and learning 2 by 1 digit multiplication. Please see the Unit 7 Family Letter on our class website for more details.

**Social Studies:** Our simulation of life in a Northwest Coast tribe continues. Each student received a Native American name and began a journal from the perspective of their character. We also learned about NW Coast art by making headbands, button blankets, canoes and totem poles. Each child also made a gift to exchange with another clan member at our potlatch. Life in our tribe is about to change we encounter traders and are faced with settlers taking over our land. Next Friday, we have the “Of Cedar and Salmon” program. Through hands-on workshops, students will participate in NW Coast games, dances, arts and crafts. It is sure to be a highlight of the year for the kids!

**Science:** Next up is a unit on weather. Students will practice reading a thermometer, learn about the water cycle, wind speed and direction, and study weather patterns in our area.

Have a GREAT weekend!

*Diana Brown*

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**Important Dates**

- 4/4, 4/5  Math SBA Testing
- 4/8  Of Cedar and Salmon, Native American Potlatch
- 4/11-4/15  Spring Break
- 4/25  Class Pictures (new date)

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**Potlatch**

Thank you to everyone who signed up to send in food. The kids are really looking forward to our celebration! I learned that the smoked salmon packs are smaller than I thought so we could probably use 1 more. Also, we still need some raspberries. Please let me know if you would like to help out.

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**Questions to Ask Your Child**

- What is a unit fraction? (Hint: any fraction with a 1 as the numerator)
- What clues can you look for to help you determine the author’s purpose?
- What are some important things for opinion writers to include in their writing?
- How did the tribe members of the NW Coast community work together and depend on one another?