

Wednesday's update and Day 8 of required instruction. Teachers are continuing to work hard to provide engaging lessons for students. The purpose of grading during remote instruction is to provide meaningful feedback to students so they can continue to make progress. In order to do this, we need to keep consistent communication with students and families. Encourage your students to reach out for help during teacher office hours or to take advantage of online help sessions. Grades in PowerSchool are to provide feedback about student progress and to show you and your student which assignments are complete, incomplete or not attempted. This also means that when you look at PowerSchool you may not see a true average. For example, the total average might show 100 but your student might have four missing assignments, so look at progress more than grades. When you check your student's progress, it helps you see what assignments they still may need to do to keep them on track. Encourage them to try to do anything missed and teachers will give them feedback and credit. We all have to think of grades differently than we did in our traditional school setting—try not to look at averages—just assist your children with keeping their work up to date. We truly appreciate your support and I'm sure your children will thank you someday. One positive about remote learning is that students will have multiple attempts to show mastery of their subject area as we focus on growth and learning through feedback and practice. As they say, practice makes perfect!

Day 17 for CN—1863 breakfast and 1863 lunch meals served today. What a blessing. After tomorrow, schools are closed for Spring Break—we will resume meal services on Monday, April 20. McDonald's program is still available thru April 30.

Okay—are you ready for the answer to yesterday's riddle? (repeat riddle—What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a body but never sleeps?) Yes—you're right—a river. You guys are really good.

Today's riddle for tomorrow. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do?

Our new animal friend is the polar bear. These beautiful animals live in the Arctic—the polar region of Earth that surrounds the North Pole where the average winter temperature is 30 degrees below 0 and the average summer temperature is 37-54 degrees. Arctic winters are long and cold while summers are short and cool. Polar bears have black skin. They have clear hair—so why do they look white? A polar bear's coat has two layers of hair—an outer layer, made up of long, guard hairs, and a thick

undercoat made up of shorter hair. These guard hairs are mostly transparent or clear, but thanks to some special characteristics that work to create cool optical tricks, these hairs appear white. This ties back into the science of light and vision— isn't that cool? We'll learn more about these fascinating animals tomorrow.

Good night and rest well. Only one more day until spring break!