

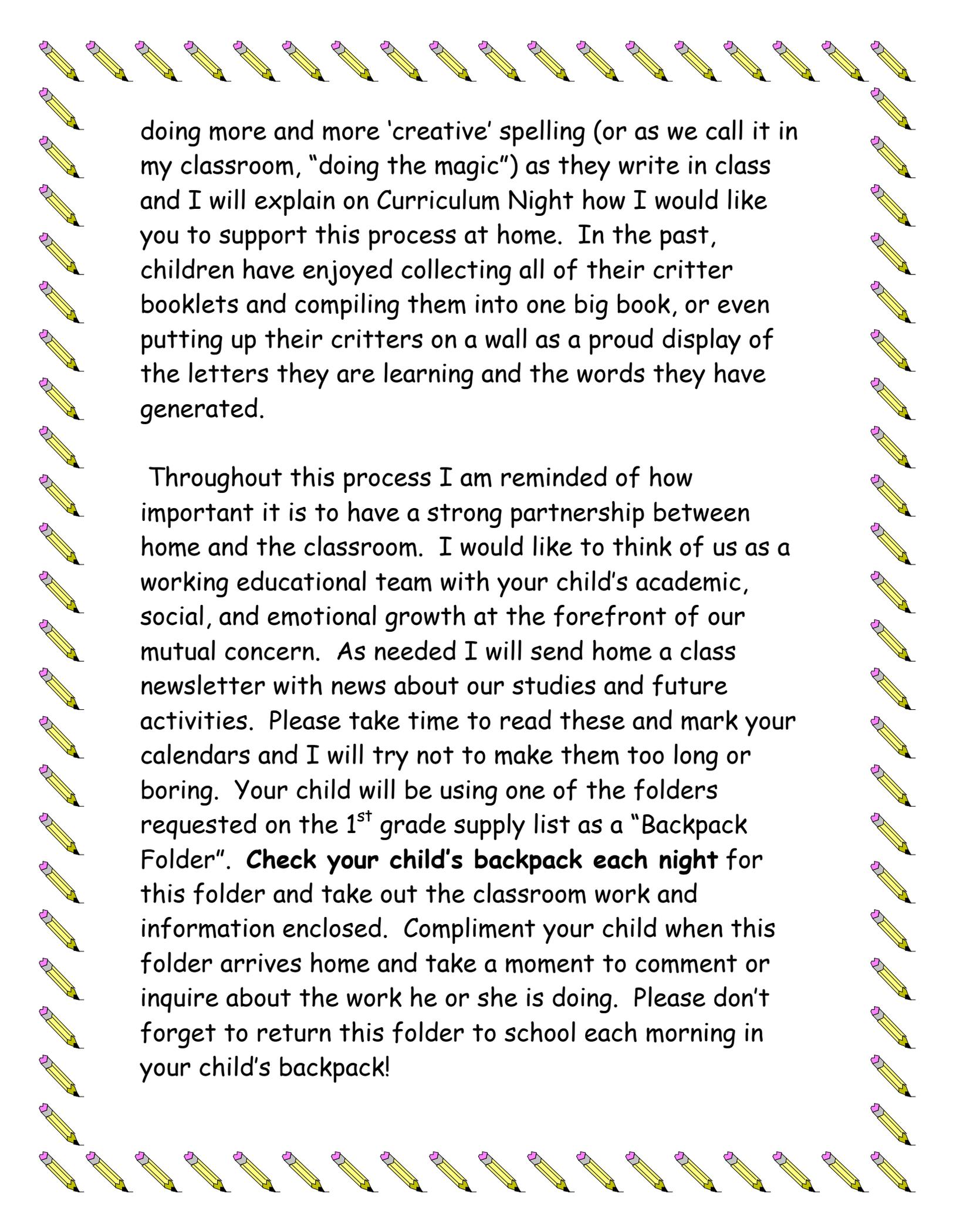
## ...MORE NEWS FROM ROOM 20

### September 5th, 2014

Hi again,

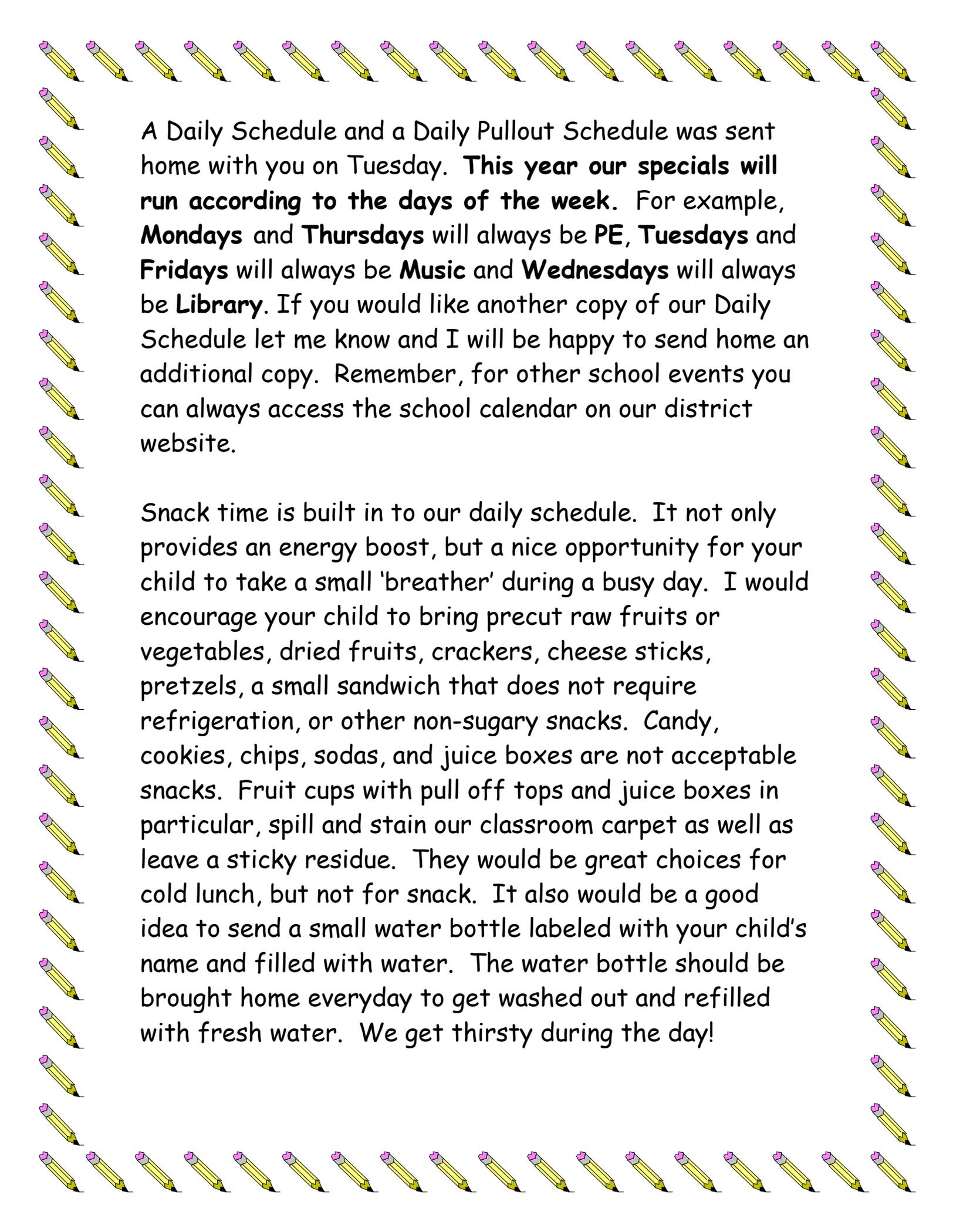
I didn't want to overwhelm you with too much information in my first newsletter, so I thought I would do it to you in this one! Again, it is such a privilege to be teaching your children. We have done a lot of community building and getting routines in place. Everybody seems to be happy and adjusting beautifully and it is just a great group of kids!

You may have noticed that 'ItI' came home this week. He is the first of our alphabet critters. Please let your child share their critter with you and inform you of the sound that 'ItI' makes, as well as how to write the letter. We have been adjusting some pencil grips, so make sure that your child is holding the pencil between their thumb and pointer finger and using the third finger as a 'table' to rest the pencil on. We brainstormed some words that begin with the short sound of 'I'. Feel free to do some more brainstorming of other words that have the short sound of 'I' somewhere in them. For the short vowels it is sometimes easier to identify words that have that sound in the middle of the word rather than at the beginning, so just be supportive of whatever they generate and help them to HEAR and FEEL all of the sounds in the word as they try to write it. We will be



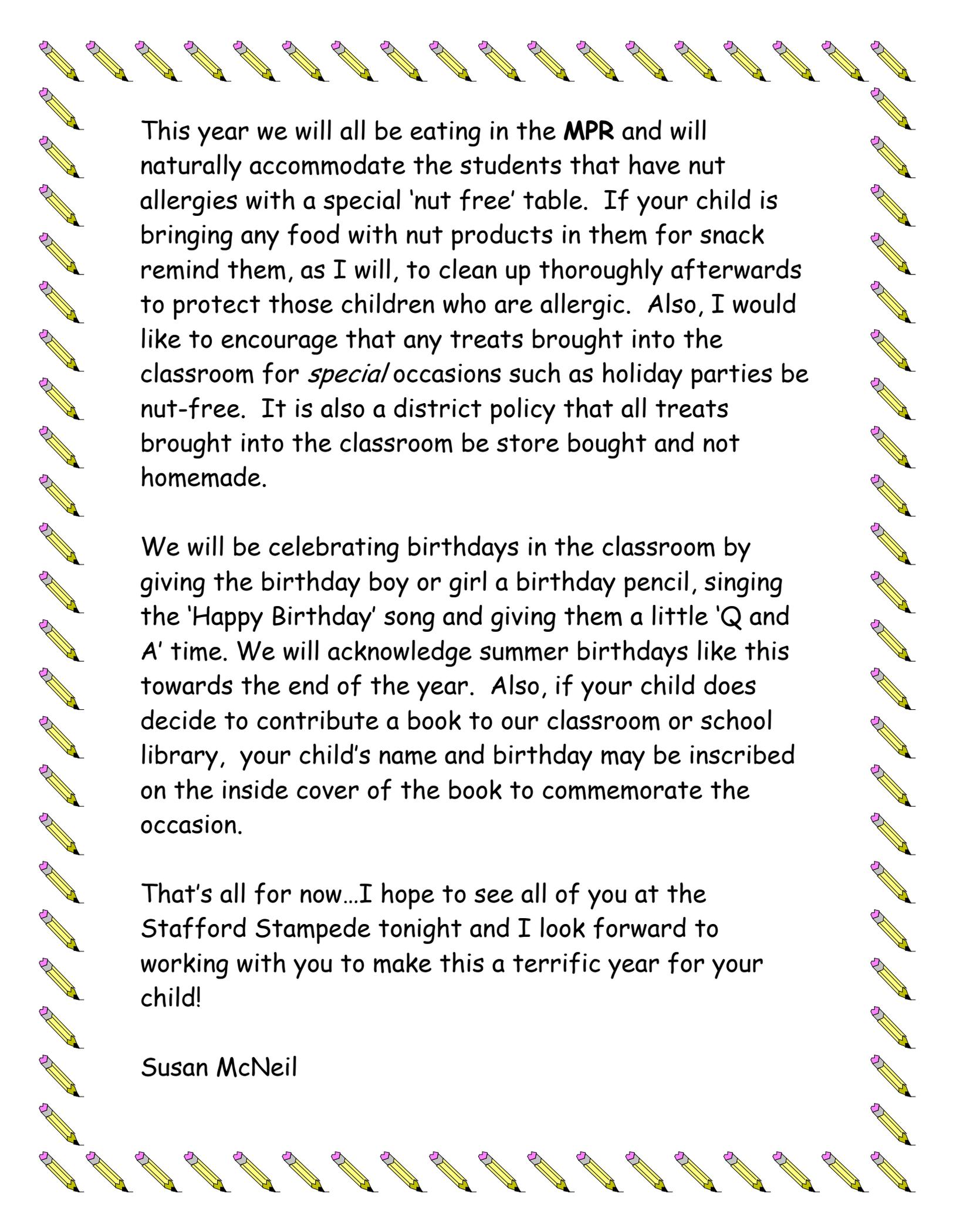
doing more and more 'creative' spelling (or as we call it in my classroom, "doing the magic") as they write in class and I will explain on Curriculum Night how I would like you to support this process at home. In the past, children have enjoyed collecting all of their critter booklets and compiling them into one big book, or even putting up their critters on a wall as a proud display of the letters they are learning and the words they have generated.

Throughout this process I am reminded of how important it is to have a strong partnership between home and the classroom. I would like to think of us as a working educational team with your child's academic, social, and emotional growth at the forefront of our mutual concern. As needed I will send home a class newsletter with news about our studies and future activities. Please take time to read these and mark your calendars and I will try not to make them too long or boring. Your child will be using one of the folders requested on the 1<sup>st</sup> grade supply list as a "Backpack Folder". **Check your child's backpack each night** for this folder and take out the classroom work and information enclosed. Compliment your child when this folder arrives home and take a moment to comment or inquire about the work he or she is doing. Please don't forget to return this folder to school each morning in your child's backpack!



A Daily Schedule and a Daily Pullout Schedule was sent home with you on Tuesday. **This year our specials will run according to the days of the week.** For example, **Mondays** and **Thursdays** will always be PE, **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** will always be **Music** and **Wednesdays** will always be **Library**. If you would like another copy of our Daily Schedule let me know and I will be happy to send home an additional copy. Remember, for other school events you can always access the school calendar on our district website.

Snack time is built in to our daily schedule. It not only provides an energy boost, but a nice opportunity for your child to take a small 'breather' during a busy day. I would encourage your child to bring precut raw fruits or vegetables, dried fruits, crackers, cheese sticks, pretzels, a small sandwich that does not require refrigeration, or other non-sugary snacks. Candy, cookies, chips, sodas, and juice boxes are not acceptable snacks. Fruit cups with pull off tops and juice boxes in particular, spill and stain our classroom carpet as well as leave a sticky residue. They would be great choices for cold lunch, but not for snack. It also would be a good idea to send a small water bottle labeled with your child's name and filled with water. The water bottle should be brought home everyday to get washed out and refilled with fresh water. We get thirsty during the day!



This year we will all be eating in the **MPR** and will naturally accommodate the students that have nut allergies with a special 'nut free' table. If your child is bringing any food with nut products in them for snack remind them, as I will, to clean up thoroughly afterwards to protect those children who are allergic. Also, I would like to encourage that any treats brought into the classroom for *special* occasions such as holiday parties be nut-free. It is also a district policy that all treats brought into the classroom be store bought and not homemade.

We will be celebrating birthdays in the classroom by giving the birthday boy or girl a birthday pencil, singing the 'Happy Birthday' song and giving them a little 'Q and A' time. We will acknowledge summer birthdays like this towards the end of the year. Also, if your child does decide to contribute a book to our classroom or school library, your child's name and birthday may be inscribed on the inside cover of the book to commemorate the occasion.

That's all for now...I hope to see all of you at the Stafford Stampede tonight and I look forward to working with you to make this a terrific year for your child!

Susan McNeil