

Mrs. Ponte's Weekly Newsletter

Dear Families,

We had a great first couple days of school. This week we will start our beginning of the year assessments using a new program called i-Ready. This replaces the MAP test. On Thursday, August 8th we have our Back to School Night. I really encourage you to come even though you aren't new to PYA. I will be discussing Science Camp, the 40 Book Challenge, and our assessment program.

I will continue to use Remind as a way to communicate with you about anything and everything. If you've gotten a new phone or need to connect with our class, you can text: **@mrsponte4 to the number 81010**

Important Dates

August 8: Back to School Night: 5-6 pm

September 23th, October 28th, January 13th:

No school for students

October 7-11th: Fall Break

January 20-24: SCIENCE CAMP!

Important Notes for the Week!

- ✓ Make sure to take some time to fill out all the Back-To-School forms that your child brought home. You can return them as soon as possible but no later than Friday, August 9th. Thank you!
- ✓ Our school uniform policy remains the same this year. Please see the handbook for specific details.
- ✓ Our scheduled week for Science Camp is January 20-24. We will be selling Jamba Juice BOGO cards soon. This will be our first opportunity for students to earn money for camp. If you are interested in helping to run this fundraiser, or have an idea for another one, please message me. Thanks!
- ✓ I have TWO Donors Choose projects online right now. If you are looking for a way to donate supplies to our classroom, I would definitely appreciate your support with either of these projects. The link to my teacher page is: donorschoose.org/m.ponte

Learner Profile Trait of the Month:

Caring – We show empathy, compassion, and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

40 Book Challenge: Ready...set...read! We started the 40 Book Challenge last week and students are already pages into their new books. This year, I am challenging each 5th grader, myself, and YOU to read at least 40 books this school year. This is a personal challenge, not a competition. We will track our progress using reading journals at school. The goals of the 40 Book Challenge are:

- To explore new reading genres that might be different from what a student might normally choose to read
- To increase students' love of reading
- To make academic gains in reading

I value your support with this challenge! Please check in with your child about what they're reading each evening. I'll also provide you with some information at Back to School Night if you would like to take the challenge yourself! Students will have time in class to read and respond to the books they choose.

Book Pick of the Week:

[Out of My Mind](#) by Sharon Draper

From Booklist: "Fifth-grader Melody has cerebral palsy, a condition that affects her body but not her mind. Although she is unable to walk, talk, or feed or care for herself, she can read, think, and feel. A brilliant person is trapped inside her body, determined to make her mark in the world in spite of her physical limitations."