**Mrs. Slocum’s Room**

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**October 24, 2011**

**Aloha News**

**Writing Workshop Volunteers**

**After conferences, I’ll be looking for volunteers who are willing to help during Writing Workshop, which is from 8:15-9:15 every day. It’s a very easy way to volunteer and lend a helping hand, allowing me to spend more individualized time with writers. Please let me know if you’re available to help during Writing Workshop, whether it’s 1 day a week, 1 day a month, or daily!**

**Halloween Party**

 **Our Halloween party will immediately**

**follow the parade, which will begin at 2:00 on Monday, October 31. Only 3 slips have been returned from parents who are willing to send in treats. I’m desperate for additional volunteers! If you can help, please contact me or return your slip by Wednesday.**

**Math Review**

Our second unit of Everyday Math reviews addition and subtraction. Fact Families is a term you might hear, it’s the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction facts. For example…4+5=9; 5+4=9; 9-4=5; 9-5=4…

We’ve also been writing number stories! It’s much easier for students to figure out number stories when they think of the story in “parts”…two “parts” equal the whole.

**Send in those BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION you’ve been collecting all summer! We’re competing in a contest to collect the most Box Tops!**

**Friday is the last collection day for October!!**

**Conference Slips are coming home TODAY, please check for it in your child’s Monday Mail. Consult your schedule and return the confirmation slip ASAP!**

**The Daily 5**

**One of our newest Café’ Strategies is to Use Prior Knowledge to Connect with Text. Ask your child to explain how making Text-to-Text Connections and Text-to-Self Connections can help him/her better understand what he/she is reading.**

**On the back of this newsletter, I’ve provided you with a hand-out that further explains the purpose of the strategy. Use this strategy at home, as your child reads aloud, helping to make these connections.**

**We’ve also been working on the strategy Skip the Word, then Come Back. Using the context from the rest of the sentence is an excellent way for kids to figure out unknown words. It works very well… you’ll be surprised how much easier it is for your child to decode unfamiliar words!**

**What’s Up in Social Studies?**

We’ve been learning about the importance of the local government in our community. This week, we’ll focus on the organization of the three branches of our local government (makes laws, enforces laws, interprets laws) and the responsibilities of our government.

**On Friday, our class will be walking to City Hall for a tour of our local governmental agency.**