Dear Parents,

 For the next three weeks of school, we will turn back the hands of time in our classroom to the middle of the 19th century! The children will participate in a simulation called APPLE VALLEY SCHOOL They will pretend to be students in one of the earliest public schools in our nation. They will personally experience the joys and frustrations of going to a one-room school house during the rough and tumble pioneer days. They will develop a sense of our early history as they explore this special time in our past.

 You can enrich your child’s experience in several ways. First, share your own personal memories of your school days. How have things changed? Are some things still the same? This would be a good time to share old photographs, report cards, and other memorabilia. You might also involve your child’s grandparents, if they are available.

 Second, your child might decide to tackle the challenge of extra credit projects about pioneer days, called CHALLENGE TASKS. If your child chooses to work on a CHALLENGE TASK at home, try to be supportive of his or her efforts. You might help gather materials and offer suggestions when needed, but don’t do the project for your child. Enthusiasm and effort are more important than a “perfect” diorama, story, or poem.

 This is a wonderful experience for the students and we are all very excited to embark on this journey.

Sincerely,

Miss White (aka Mrs. Schneider)

Teacher at “Apple Valley School”