September 15, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We will begin studying the Native American tribes of North America this week. Our goal is to learn why different tribes used certain materials for their homes. As we learn about the Kwakiutl, Pawnee, Hopi, Nez Perce, Seminole, and Inuit tribes…we will look at the natural resources available to them and their way of life.

Your child will be completing a project that will be given a Social Studies grade. They will make a model of a Native American dwelling. They may choose whichever tribe they want. **This is a project to be completed at home and turned in by Friday, October 2nd**. I encourage parent assistance but please remember…this is your child’s project. It will NOT be graded on beauty…just completeness. Allow them to do the majority of the work.

Your child will present their models to the class. They will need to know what tribe used the home, what the home is called, what region the tribe lived in, and what materials the tribe used to construct the home. We will be discussing all of these tribes in class, so students should know them by the time they present.

Their Social Studies book is a great resource to use for ideas. Please write me a note if you would like your child to bring home a social studies book for this project. Please make sure it is returned when you are finished.

* Hopi (Southwest) – pueblos
* Kwakiutl (Pacific Northwest) – plank houses
* Pawnee (Great Plains) – tepee / earth lodges
* Nez Perce (Northwest) – long house
* Seminole (Southeast) – chickees
* Inuit (Arctic Northwest) – igloos

The Internet is also a great resource.

In the past, the best projects have been ones that used materials from outdoors. Native Americans used their natural resources to build their homes. Students can find items in nature to complete this project. If you would like to purchase items you can, but it is not required!

***\*Please remember that this project is due by October 2nd . Points will be deducted from the grade if the project is late.***

***\*The rubric that will be used to grade the model is printed on the back of this letter.***