October 20, 2014

Dear Parents,

November is National Adoption Month, and we plan to celebrate here at Sunnyside Elementary School. These are the festivities we have planned:

1. All students will attend an assembly with their grade to learn about adoption. As always, parents are welcome to attend student assemblies. Any parent with experience with adoption is welcome to speak at any of the assemblies. Please contact Ms. Piper in the school office at (309) 444-4499 by Oct. 31 if interested in volunteering.
	1. Kindergarten & 1st grade: Wed. Nov. 5, 10-11 A.M., library
		1. Students will attend a puppet show to hear a story about adoption.
	2. 2nd & 3rd grade: Thurs. Nov. 6, 10-11 A.M., library
		1. Students will read a story about adoption and then have a short conversation.
	3. 4th & 5th grade: Fri. Nov. 7, 10-11 A.M., library
		1. Before this assembly, teachers will briefly explain the concept of adoption to students during class. At the assembly, there will be panel including an adopted child, the adoptive parents, and the birth mother. Students can hear adoption stories and have any questions answered.
2. Teachers have been instructed to revise some traditional assignments to make them more adoption friendly. The following projects have been revised:
	1. Bring a baby picture: now students can bring any picture of themselves having a good time.
	2. Family tree assignments: students will be provided with a template that includes space for an adoptive family
	3. Autobiographies: students can write about a special story in their lives rather than a full autobiography
	4. Cultural heritage assignment: students can research any culture rather than their own
	5. Student of the week: when students have their special weeks, they will share details about their hobbies and favorite things rather than their life stories

If you have any further questions, concerns, or suggestions about Adoption Month at Sunnyside Elementary School, feel free to contact the school office at (309) 444-4499.

Sincerely,

Henry Peters
Principal, Sunnyside Elementary School