

14<sup>th</sup> Home/School Connection  
January 5, 2012



Happy 2012 5SFN!  
It's The Year Of The Dragon!  
Many of you are dragons - some of you are snakes. See the chart below to see what you and your parents are.

- WELCOME BACK: On Tuesday we reunited after having been on vacation for a week. How was your transition back to school? What do you think of the post vacation policy of just having to do reading for homework on the first day back? Why do you think I (Ms. Stark) created that policy?
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- URBAN IMPROV: Today we started our first workshop with Urban Improv. What did you think? Describe what we did, what you thought of what we did and how it might change you (or others) in the future.
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- READING GENRES: By Monday **after February vacation**, (February 27<sup>th</sup>) you will have to have read at least one more book in each of the 8 genres. I want you to think about this now so you can find books you like in each genre. Show this reading response sheet to a parent. This time you will also have to write reviews of 4 of the books from the 8 genres. You will get the form on Monday.
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- ANIMAL RESEARCH: Before writing your story, you are thinking about the most interesting, captivating and admirable traits of your animal so you can include these details in your story. You are also making a list of all the hardships your animal has to deal with so you can build the plot of your story around some of these problems. You are also learning as much as you can about the setting of the story so you can make the setting come to life for your reader. Describe what you wrote for each of these topics (traits, hardships, setting)
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**PLANNING/MAPPING YOUR ANIMAL STORY:** You have begun the process of planning your story. You are not only thinking about the setting of the story and the main problems and traits of your characters, you're thinking about the plot. One way of doing this is to think about the major events in your story.

Major Events:

- First -
- Next-
- After that -
- Then -
- Until (climax) -
- And in the end (resolution) -

Discuss some of the ideas you have for your story so far. Explain that once you start writing, your story may change because stories can take on a life of their own, but it's still good to have a plan.

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**NOTICING AN AUTHOR'S SKILL:** Now that you are planning your own story, you are taking time to observe how other authors make a problem compelling or the setting, plot or characters vivid. Talk to a parent about authors that you think are particularly good at this. Perhaps you can go find parts of a book that are particularly well written.

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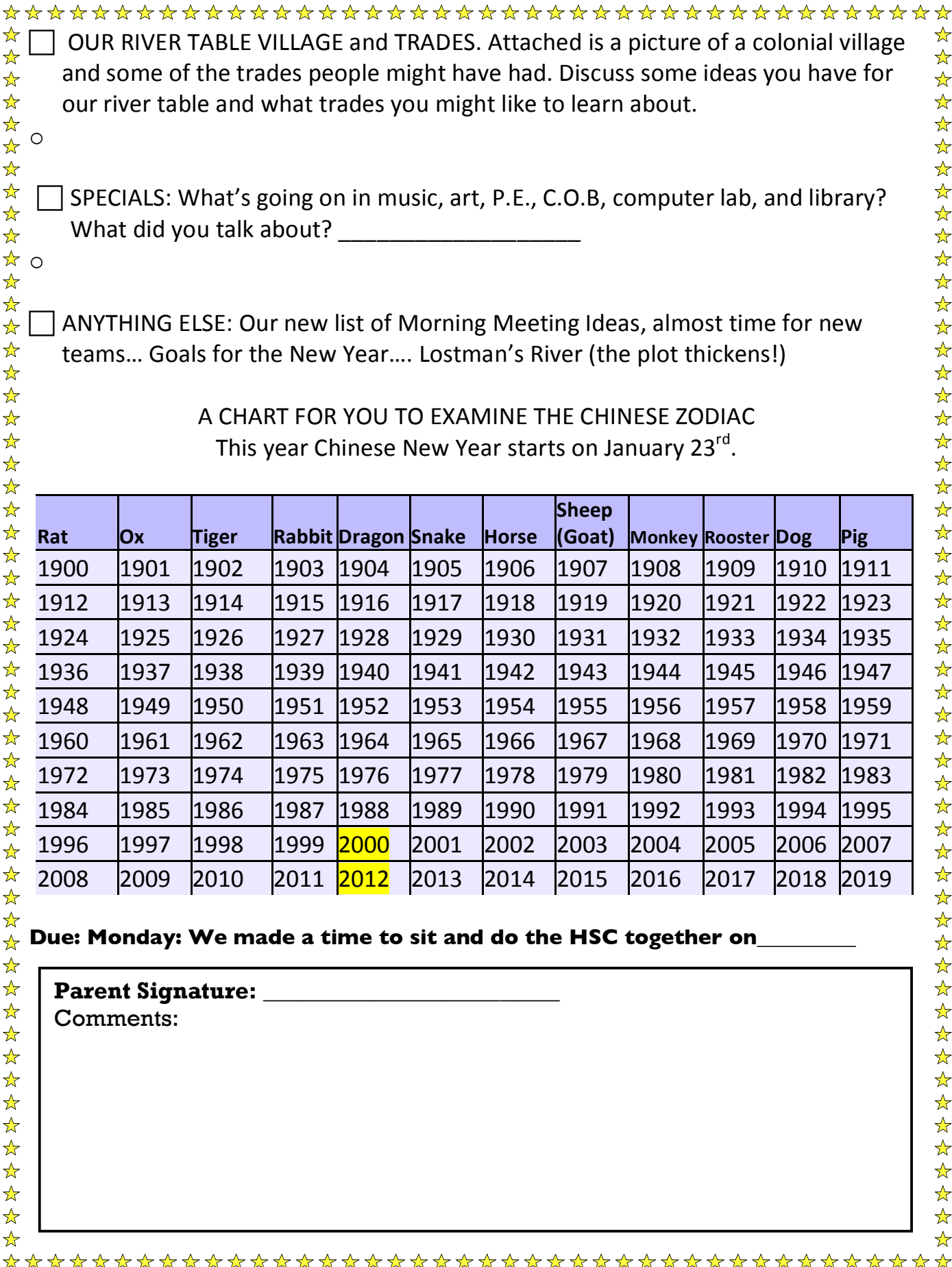
**MATH:** We're finishing chapter 11 on fractions. This week you have been focusing on word problems that involve multiplication of fractions. Some of the problems have been a bit challenging, some are more clear. You also had a weekly check in to review some of what we have done this year. What parts of fractions are making more sense to you – are there areas you would like to review? Next week we're starting chapter 7 on decimals. How do you feel about that?

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**COLONIES:** You are continuing to work with others while learning about the middle or southern colonies. You will then be responsible for teaching the other group about your region. You are learning how to take good notes, ask questions and determine what's important while reviewing many facts. Share your social studies notes so far and the chapter you and your partners have been focusing on.

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OUR RIVER TABLE VILLAGE and TRADES. Attached is a picture of a colonial village and some of the trades people might have had. Discuss some ideas you have for our river table and what trades you might like to learn about.

SPECIALS: What's going on in music, art, P.E., C.O.B, computer lab, and library? What did you talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

ANYTHING ELSE: Our new list of Morning Meeting Ideas, almost time for new teams... Goals for the New Year... Lostman's River (the plot thickens!)

A CHART FOR YOU TO EXAMINE THE CHINESE ZODIAC  
This year Chinese New Year starts on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit	Dragon	Snake	Horse	Sheep (Goat)	Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Pig
1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

**Due: Monday: We made a time to sit and do the HSC together on \_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**