

April 1

A sparkling clear sunny day! But cold. Only a couple of clouds in the sky, sliding along towards the southwest in a north wind bringing freezing air from the Arctic. But the sunshine is spectacular.

You've been working hard this week, getting used to doing assignments online, getting used to being on a computer and typing your words instead of using pen and paper. That is really hard for the brain. You have to create a whole new section inside your head so that you can think about ideas and turn them into words while typing. When you use pen and paper and write by hand, you use a different section of your brain, one that you started building years ago when you were in kindergarten. Therefore, if you are feeling tired this week, it's not surprising. Your brain has been very busy. Fortunately, the more you practise thinking and typing at the same time, the better you will get at it.

I have been busy this week, too, relearning computer programmes that I haven't used for over nine years, helping you learn how to use Google Classroom, meeting with other teachers in video conferences, contacting your parents and helping them with forms from the office, and replying to emails. Waiting for every parent to join Google Classroom, so we can start having video conferences. Reading your journals is the pleasurable part of the day.

Tomorrow, we all need a rest. If we are caught up with our work, of course. I'm not caught up. I want to read all the work you have sent me during the past three days. You need to complete your World Literature project and send it to me before the end of Friday, because you will be starting all new assignments on Monday. Once you have sent me your project, you may take a rest for today.

If you want to get ahead, work on your art project. When is it due? April 17, so you have lots of time but it is always more pleasurable to do things at a leisurely pace. It also tends to lead to much better results, as I'm sure you know.

And read. Next week, you'll start telling me about your daily reading. What book are you reading? How many pages did you read? What happened on those pages?

But today, once you've sent me your World Literature project, relax. Bundle up warmly and get out into the sunshine. Notice all the signs of spring. Think happy thoughts. And then go inside and do something nice for someone else. Smile!