

September 2010

Dear Parents:

One of the major projects the students will do this year is a simple autobiography. I feel it will be a valuable learning tool in many areas. It will be an on-going process beginning at the first of this school year to the end. The experience gained from writing, researching, interviewing family members and discussions about your child's heritage and life will become priceless.

I know this may become a big task for you; therefore, I have organized this list of photographs, items and stories that will need to be collected for the year. I hope you and your child will take advantage of this and **begin now**. I will send weekly reminders home for when each item is needed for the following week, but it would be to your advantage to prepare yourself ahead of time so things are not done at the last minute. The reminders and dates will also be posted on my website.

On the last day of each week, students will receive next week's autobiography assignment. On the following Friday, or last day of the week, students will have class time to work on their autobiography assignment. **It will be due and turned in on the following Monday.**

Please help your child be prepared. Copies of photographs are just fine or you may want to print them off on your printer. If there aren't any available, the student may illustrate a picture.

****Please** let the ideas and events come from the child's memories, it's his/her life we want to focus on. Parents should only aide in the process. The writing will all be done at school but you may need to help them by writing a few notes down to send to school.

Photographs needed:

1. Birth photo
2. Present photo
3. Favorite toy or "imaginary friend", blanket (i.e. Velveteen Rabbit)
4. Family portrait
5. Kindergarten picture
6. House
7. Neighborhood
8. Room
9. Three memorable, vivid memories of life (i.e. holidays, trips, etc.)
10. Possible photo of oldest relative that came to America
11. Family customs and a traditional costume from ethnic background
12. Photo of memorable family meal (i.e. Thanksgiving, wedding, etc.)
13. Pictures of heirlooms or family treasures.
14. Meaningful family snapshot (i.e. family trip, park, etc.)
15. Oldest item family has (i.e. vase, chair, etc.)
16. Collection child or family member has (i.e. baseball cards, figurines, etc.)
17. Good friends
18. Pets
19. Heroes, fictional or non-fictional
20. Someone very special in their life right now.
21. Possible others as ideas pop up.

Items and stories needed:

1. Full name of parents
2. Parent's occupations
3. Full name of grandparents
4. Information on birth (i.e. time, place, problems, day of week, mother's labor time, people who came to visit, etc.)
5. Think of special toys, blanket or "imaginary friends" child has or had.

6. Information on first and last names or nicknames (i.e. what it means, why it was chosen, famous people with similar name/names, etc.)
7. Discuss physical characteristics, where or who they came from (i.e. dad's mouth, mom's eyes, etc.)
8. Memories of the first day of kindergarten
9. Information on how the oldest or first relative came to America (when they came, where they are from, how did they get to America, what type of job did they have.
10. Family tree going back at least four generations from the student.
11. Color a map of areas parents' relatives came from and learn a little about one of the countries.
12. Collect information about Utah that the child thinks is important from magazines, Internet, newspapers, pamphlet, etc.)
13. Develop a timeline of important events that have happened so far in the student's life (i.e. birth, family trips, first step, first book read, first haircut, an accident, etc.)
14. Discuss favorite words, expressions or phrases that your family uses right now.
15. Discuss family traditions.
16. Discuss most memorable meal with family (i.e. who was there, what was eaten, why it was important).
17. Get two favorite recipes with directions.
18. Find a unique or appealing myth, legend or folktale from ethnic background for the student to retell in his/her own words. (Can be a family story or a story from the library.)
19. Have a relative (grandparents or uncles/aunts) tell a story that needs to be remembered and written down. (May want to tape record it.)
20. Find a treasured heirloom discuss when it was received, who gave it to your family, why it is valuable. Also, find oldest item your family has.
21. Learn about collections family members have and what was collected.
22. Discuss student's happiest day, proudest day, and something learned from a disappointment in child's life.
23. Learn about collections family members have and what was collected.
24. Pick six special moments in your student's life that he/she wants to always remember (i.e. timeline)
25. Discuss heroes that your student has (fictional/non-fictional)
26. Changes in student's life time (own personal life or societal changes i.e. computers)
27. Embarrassing moments.
28. A letter from the parent to their child expressing their love, special memories, and etc. This will be place in the autobiography.

These are the dates when your child will need the information for his/her autobiography. *Go to the classroom website (Autobiography) for detailed information.*

1. September 17th - Birth, Acclaim, I know this...
2. September 23rd - Who am I?
3. September 23rd - My Name
4. October 1st - I Am Unique
5. October 8th - My Hands
6. October 13th - My Family
7. October 22nd - When I am Twenty
8. October 27th - First Day of Kindergarten
9. November 5th - Timeline
10. November 11th - Special Friend
11. November 19th - Across the Generations
12. December 3rd - My Room
13. December 10th - My House
14. December 17th - My Neighborhood

15. January 7^h – Four Generations
16. January 13th – My First ancestor
17. January 21st – Where in the World?
18. January 28th – School Days
19. February 4th – Family Meal
20. February 11th – A Family Tradition
21. February 17th – Favorite Words, Expressions, or Phrases
22. February 25th – Hobbies and Collections
23. March 4th – Friends and Friendships
24. March 11th – Pets
25. March 18th – I Have Changed
26. March 24th – Remembering Someone Special
27. April 1st – Favorite Things
28. April 8th – Family Heirlooms
29. April 15th – Unique myth, legend or folktale
30. April 29th – My State on the Map
31. May 6th – Favorite Recipe
32. May 13TH – Make cover, put together autobiography and letter from parent(s)
33. May 20TH – **AUTOBIOGRAPHY IS DUE!**

“The only thing that is certain is that we need to record our thought, feelings, and experiences as soon as they happen, because our minds play tricks on us, and what we thought we’d remember for the rest of our lives, we begin to forget as each day’s sun sinks beneath the horizon.”

Thanks for your support and help,
Lyne Miller