Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for informing me of your upcoming trip. It is my belief that travel can afford your child amazing opportunities for learning that cannot otherwise occur here in our classroom. Those new experiences can be captured through our writing! I will not be sending any typical “make-up” work for your child to complete during his/her absence. Instead, I will be sending you with an assignment that when completed should provide your child with optimal learning and provide you with a journal or log of your travels written through your child’s eyes! When your child returns they will be asked to share their experiences with our class so we will all learn from your child’s experiences. You will find included in this bag and pocket folder: paper, colored pencils, sticky-notes, and a map:

• The pocket at the front of this folder can be used to collect any brochures that show experiences your family has during this journey. Include additional road maps, menus, or brochures of what you have actually experienced.

• Using the map that is included, please help your child keep track of their journey. They can draw the route or make notations of airplane terminals, landforms, etc. to show us where they went on their adventure. Please have them find our town to begin their travels.
• White or lined paper. I have included paper. Each day of your journey please ask your child to reflect on what they did, learned, or enjoyed. Please ask them to date it at the top. You will find a box of colored pencils for this activity. Encourage them to write about the day’s events and draw or illustrate their work. Ask them to read it to you or a family member once completed. Your child should write independently and it is fine that they use invented spelling during their writing. You may certainly help and guide them in this process, as needed, but this work should be your child’s work. If you find they are having difficulty reading it back to you, you may wish to write their ideas on a post-it note and attach that to the paper.

• Post cards or pictures of your trip can be placed in the back pocket for sharing upon your return. Any additional artifacts or notes are welcomed! If your pictures were taken digitally, feel free to e-mail a few for me and I can show them to our class. Please limit your pictures to 10.

Upon your returns from your travels, please make sure that your child returns this folder to school to share their learning with us their first day back. We will miss your child—but look forward to hearing about your journey!

Yours in education,