**1st 9 Weeks**

**Journal Topics and Due Dates**

**Due August 8th:**

1. August 1, 1770, is the birthday of explorer William Clark, of the famed Lewis & Clark. Would you have wanted to be a member of the Lewis & Clark expedition team? Explain your reasons.
2. On August 2, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. If you were able to create a Declaration of Independence for your classroom, describe, in detail, one of the rights you would give the members of the classroom.
3. Today is “National Chocolate Chip Day.” Explain how to make your favorite type of cookie.
4. On this date in 1901, musician Louis Armstrong was born. Armstrong was an amazing jazz trumpeter. If you could play any instrument, which would it be and why? If you already play an instrument, why did you select that instrument?
5. On August 5, 1930, astronaut Neil Armstrong was born. If you could travel to outer space, where would you like to travel to and why?

**Due August 15th:**

1. On this date in 1899, a man by the name of Albert T. Marshall received the patent for an "automatic refrigerating apparatus," better known as the refrigerator. In at least one paragraph, explain why you think the refrigerator was such an important invention.
2. On August 9, 1944, Smokey the Bear was “born.” Smokey is responsible for sharing with people the danger of forest fires. Write a paragraph persuading campers to handle fire carefully.
3. Herbert Clark Hoover, the 31st President of the United States was born on August 10, 1874. Would you like to be President of the United States? Why or why not?
4. Today is “National Play in the Sand Day.” Describe what your ideal sandcastle would look like. Don't forget to include a sketch.
5. On this day in 1981, IBM announced their new PC. How do you think computers have possibly helped our lives? How do you think computers have possibly harmed our lives?

**Due August 22nd:**

1. On this day in 1869 the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Describe how you think the men working on this railroad may have felt when they saw their goal achieved?
2. Today is “National Relaxation Day.” Describe one way you like to have fun and relax.
3. On this day in 1786, Frontiersman Davy Crockett was born. Before turning fifteen, Davy was on his own, helping drive cattle from Tennessee to Virginia. What do you think were some of the obstacles Davy encountered on his journeys?
4. On this day in 1934, baseball great Roberto Clemente was born. Baseball is considered “America’s Pastime.” When you are outside of school, what is your favorite pastime and why?
5. On this day in 1946, Bill Clinton, our 42nd President, was born. What do you think would be the most challenging part of being President of the United States?

**Due August 29th:**

1. Today is “Be an Angel Day.” Describe a time that you were an angel to another person, or a time that someone was an angel to you.
2. On this day in 1966, the first photograph of Earth from the moon was taken by the Lunar Orbiter. If you were seeing Earth from the moon for the first time, what would be your thoughts?
3. On this day in 1932, Amelia Earhart flew across the United States. What type of character traits do you feel Amelia needed to have to reach this goal of hers?
4. Today is “National Banana Split Day.” Explain how to make a banana split.
5. On this day in 1920, the 19th Amendment - Women’s Equality was signed. Why do you think it was important for women to be able to vote?

**Due September 6th:**

1. On this day in 1934, the first Scout camp opened. Have you ever been to a camp? If so, describe your experience. If not, what camp would you like to attend?
2. On August 30, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the United States . This was a Category 4 hurricane. What types of natural disasters affect your area? And are you and your family prepared? Use resources in the classroom to learn more about natural disasters that may occur where you live and what you need to do in case one occurs.
3. On this day in 1870, a famous educator by the name of Maria Montessori was born. What is something new you would like to learn about this school year?
4. On the first Monday of each September, we celebrate Labor Day.  This holiday was first celebrated in 1882, in honor of American workers and their achievements.  List all of the different community jobs in your town and then select the one you feel is most important.  Explain why you choose that particular job.
5. On September 2, 1789, the U.S. Treasury Department was established.  If you could design a new $1 bill, explain what famous American you would have on the front.

**Due September 12th:**

1. On September 6, 2000, a popular MP3 web site was fined for copyright violation.  Instead of purchasing an MP3, visitors could simply download an MP3 free of charge.  Music downloading is a popular activity with both kids and adults.  Do you think you should be able to make a music purchase and share it with everyone you want?  After learning a little more about copyright laws, what is your opinion?
2. On this day in 1860, Grandma Moses, an American folk artist was born.  Think about a picture you have recently drawn or seen.  Describe that picture.
3. On September 8, 1940, poet Jack Prelutsky was born.  He is well known for his fun and silly poems.  Select a school-related topic and write your own poem.
4. On this day in 1892, the original Pledge of Allegiance was published.  This is not the pledge we recite today because it has been revised two times since its original publication.  Do you think all classrooms in the United States should be required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance each day?  Should students or teachers have the option not to say the pledge?  Why or why not?
5. Today is “National Grandparents Day.”  Choose one of the following ideas to write about:
   1. Think back to the time when your grandparents grew up.  How was their life similar or different to yours?
   2. Write a letter to your grandparents letting them know what’s going on in your life.

**Due September 19th:**

1. September 11th is a Day of Remembrance.  As we honor those who lost their lives on this day 2001, make a list of everything in your life that you are thankful for.
2. On September 12, 1913, Olympian Jesse Owens was born.  Owens won a number of medals in Track and Field events.  If you could invent a new Olympic event, what would it be and why?
3. September 12th is “National Chocolate Milkshake Day.”  Write a letter to your school’s principal persuading him or her to serve milkshakes at your school.
4. September 13th is “Positive Thinking Day.”  Create a “Top 10” list of ways that students can stay positive when things get tough.
5. On September 13, 1916, author Roald Dahl was born.  One of his more popular books, James and the Giant Peach, was made into a movie.  There is always a debate about which to do first – read the book or see the movie.  Which do you think is the right choice?  Has there been a time when your choice was wrong?  Explain.

**Due September 26th:**

1. On September 6, 1620, the Pilgrims set sail from Plymouth, England.  If you had been a Pilgrim on the Mayflower, explain what some of your joys and fears may have been.
2. On September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was signed. Amendments 1-10 are known as the Bill of Rights. Select one of these Amendments. After reading it and learning what it means, summarize the Amendment in “kid” terms.
3. On this day in 1976, NASA introduced the *Enterprise* to the public.  This was the first space shuttle and served as a test vehicle.  Regular shuttle flights began in 1981 with the shuttle *Columbia.*Do you think we should move forward with the idea of space tourism?  Instead of going to Disney World, your family may choose to travel into space.  What are your thoughts and opinions?
4. On this day in 1851, the New York Times newspaper was first published.  Do you think it’s important for students your age to keep up on current events?  Why or why not?
5. On this date in 1819, poet John Keats wrote a poem entitled "To Autumn.”  In just a few days, autumn will begin.  Write a poem that describes the change in seasons.