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Good evening friends. The school year is winding down for students and family members. I know it has been a stressful and challenging time for everyone—students, parents, family members, teachers and all other school employees—but you know what? I am so very proud of you—you’ve risen to the occasion and done an exceptional job. Ashe County people are the best!!

Day 36 of required instruction—2 ½ more days. Parents—I hope you’ve taken time to complete the survey—we really need your opinions, ideas and solutions for future remote learning plans. The survey is on the ACS webpage as well as on your school’s webpage. And students in grades 4-12—we need your help, too. You lived through this unprecedented time and we really need your feedback, ideas and solutions to help us create a stronger remote learning plan. By working together, we can create a better and more productive plan for everyone involved. You can find the link on the county and school websites, but teachers may also send you the link via email, Google Classroom, Canvas or Remind app. Please fill it out by this Thursday.

Day 45 for CN— 1730 breakfast and 1730 lunch meals were prepared and delivered. Thanks to everyone who made this happen today. Plans are in the making to provide a summer feeding program with delivery services—we will let you know when they are finalized. Please let your bus driver know ASAP if you are interested in participating—we need to know the number of meals you will need for children ages 18 and under.

Are you ready for the answer to yesterday’s riddle? (I make two people out of one. What am I?) If you said *a mirror*, then you are right on target as always. Good, good job!

Today’s riddle. What word contains 26 letters, but only has three syllables? We’ll find out tomorrow!!

It’s giraffe week! Nature’s gentle giants can run as fast as 35 mph over a short distance or 10 mph over longer distances. The giraffe’s neck is too short to reach the ground, so they have to awkwardly spread their front legs or kneel down to get a drink of water. Thankfully, giraffes only need to drink once every few days because most of their water comes from all the plants they eat—they eat up to 75 pounds of food a day. They use their long, black tongues to pull down leaves that grow way up high. Did you know their tongues can be up to 21 inches long? Their tongues are black so they won’t get sunburned! More on the gentle giants tomorrow.

Okay—we've covered all of the 15 incredible benefits from reading every day. It's clear that there are significant benefits from reading. So, let's get started and let's make it happen— *just pick a book you like and read every night!!*

I hope you've been busy getting all your work done and turning it in to your teachers. When it's time for bed, read some in your book before turning the lights off. And, of course, . . . I'll be back tomorrow!!