

# August 29, 2011

## Welcome To Grade 5

Dear Parents & Students,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and fun filled summer. I am looking forward to a delightful year for us all. This week we are focusing on getting to know each other. The students will create our first bulletin board titled, "Falling For Unique Traits." Students will be asked to bring in 4 small items or pictures from home that reflects who they are. We will attach them to Fall Leaves and display them for each to see how we are all unique in many different ways. Our class will also fill out interest surveys to find out things they have in common with each other. This also helps me to learn about everyone at the same time. We will discuss and implement our classroom rules, as well as begin exploring the subject areas. **Students had summer reading to complete (Shiloh); they will be graded on their knowledge of the story and characters within the next week.** So, as you can see we are full steam ahead into the new school year. I would also like to have each child bring in an empty Pringles can as soon as possible, so that we can create time capsules. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school anytime. With school and home working and communicating together, I know we will have a successful year. Remember, with TEAM work - Together Everyone Achieves More!

### Homework / Agenda Books

Students will be given an **agenda book** in which to write down all assignments. Homework is an important aspect of the learning process. Students are responsible for making sure the assignments are properly written and appropriate materials are taken home each day. It is a good idea to have extra supplies at home for your child as well. Homework is expected to be returned the following day along with the agenda book. If there is a problem, I ask that you send in a note or email. Otherwise, points will be taken off for work not completed on time, and the student will stay in during recess to complete the work. Generally, homework will be given Monday - Thursday. If your child is absent from school, they will be given 2 days to make up missed work for each day they were absent. The agenda books are also used to write down general information and reminders. I may also use them if I need to write a personal note, and you may do the same. The students will also have a "**Home**" folder. It will be used for notices, monthly calendars, homework sheets, corrected work, graded papers, parent/teacher communication, etc. **Please be sure to check both each night. It is a means of monitoring your child throughout the school year.**

## Student /Classroom Supplies

The following is a small list of supplies each student will need to bring in.

- 5 folders (blue, red, yellow, green, and 1 of their choice)
- A pencil box or bag
- Pencils and erasers \*
- Erasable pens - blue or black ink \*
- 4 one subject notebooks (blue, red, yellow, green)
- colored pencils or crayons \*
- 4 book covers or **large** book sox
- Ruler (cm. / in.) \*
- Highlighter \*
- 1 pack of sticky notes

\*\*\* These items as well as a dictionary and thesaurus are suggested supplies to also have available at home.

**We are always in need of replenishing our classroom supplies throughout the year as well.**

- Tissues are a valuable commodity!
- Disinfecting wipes and Disinfecting Spray
- Paper plates, bowls, cups, napkins

As the year progresses I may ask for donations of other needed items too. Thank you in advance.

## Scholastic Book Clubs

These book clubs each month offer many wonderful deals! The first one is enclosed and will need to be returned by **Wednesday, Sept. 8th** along with payment. It usually takes 1 week for the orders to come in. Remember, the more orders you place, the more **free** books we can get for our classroom library!

## Projects

Throughout the year, students will have various projects, such as Book Reports, Science Experiments, and Social Studies biographies and projects, just to name a few. They will be given written directions as well as the grading system as a guide to follow. Students will have ample time to work on given projects.

## Rules and Behavior

A copy of our classroom rules is enclosed. I ask that you please review it with your child, sign it, and return it to school. We have reviewed the list in class and discussed the importance of following rules so that we are able to create a friendly, safe, and respectful environment for all.

## Volunteers

I am always looking for volunteers throughout the year to help in the classroom, with special projects, and on field trips. If this is something you'd be interested in, let me know and I can get in touch with you. You will first need to fill out proper paperwork with the office. A fifth grade committee also forms in order to create the fifth grade yearbook, assist with the promotion ceremony, help with fundraisers, organize and distribute t shirts, etc... Parent help is always needed and very much appreciated.

## Subject Areas

This week we will begin exploring each subject area. Below is a brief overview of what we will be learning.

**Reading** - The students will be exposed to many genres. I hope to instill a love of reading with the different literature in the reading series as well as novels. Students will learn various strategies to help strengthen their comprehension and increase their vocabulary. Students will also be able to access [pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://pearsonsuccessnet.com) to reinforce skills within the reading series.

**Math** - The students need to practice their multiplication facts daily. They will also learn long division, as well as fractions. In studying fractions, students will learn how to find equivalent fractions, simplifying, how to add and subtract fractions, relating fractions to percents and decimals. Students will also study algebra, geometry, problem solving, place value, measurement, and probability to name just a few skills. Students will also be able to work on [studyisland.com](http://studyisland.com) at home to reinforce skills they learn throughout the year, another fun site is [funbrain.com](http://funbrain.com).

**Spelling** - Each week the students will focus on a spelling lesson. Pre tests will be given on Mondays and Tests on Fridays. Throughout the week, students will work on various activities to practice the words. Each lesson will focus on spelling generalizations and words the students will frequently encounter in their daily reading and writing. We will also use [spellingcity.com](http://spellingcity.com) during technology to reinforce skills. Students are able to access this website from home as well.

**Language** - This is divided into two parts. Part one works with grammar, usage, and mechanics. Part two works with reading and responding to literature, writing for specific purposes, and poetry. We will focus our year on integrating the two parts together. Students will use [studyisland.com](http://studyisland.com) for language and reading practice as well.

**Science** - The year will be broken up into four units. Students will actively investigate concepts and evaluate the results. The four areas we will study are Plants, Energy & Work, Simple Machines and Rocks & Minerals.

**Social Studies** - Students will study the Vikings, Maya, Aztec and Inca Peoples, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> European explorations, and earliest settlements in North America. We will also focus on the political, economic and social development of the English colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The early development of democratic institutions and ideas, including the ideas and events that led to the independence of the original thirteen colonies and the formation of a national government under the U.S. Constitution. The website [mrdonn.org](http://mrdonn.org) is fun to access for reinforcement of classroom skills.

**Tests and Quizzes** - Students will know well in advance when there will be a test or quiz. They will also write it in their agenda books, as well as have study guides. **Any test or quiz grade below 70% will be sent home to be signed and returned.** This way you are kept informed of your child's progress.

Finally, each month I will compose a classroom newsletter highlighting important information and sharing wonderful work we have accomplished. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the newsletter so you will know what's new in our classroom. It will be posted on the school's website. If you are unable to access it, please contact me and I will send home a paper copy for you. So, as you can see we have a busy year ahead of us. I look forward to meeting everyone at our Open House.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mattos

