

9/6/07

Dear 5/6 Families;

The year is off to a busy start! We have been becoming more familiar with classroom procedures and routines and getting to know each other better through interactive games and sharing our "personal bags". We have also begun to launch our academic curriculum. Here's a glimpse into what we will be doing in the upcoming weeks:

#### MATH

We have begun our first Investigations unit, called *Number Puzzles and Multiple Towers*. This unit focuses on multiplication and division strategies and reviews concepts that the students were exposed to in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This is a great unit to start the year with, as it will allow me to get a sense for how individual students work with and think about number relationships.

#### READING

Our reading activities for a number of weeks will focus on story elements. Students will be starting an Independent Reading Project that they will be working on for the remainder of the month. This will allow me to work with individual students to get to know their reading skills and preferences. It also allows students to work at their own level.

We will also be reading a number of short stories. More about this in the next newsletter.

#### WRITING

Students are currently writing about their goals for the school year. When our "goal pieces" are complete, we will start writing short story narratives, our first big writing project. This project integrates nicely with our reading focus of story elements. The narratives will work on writing skills such as development of character, setting and plot, as well as mini lessons on descriptive writing techniques and writing dialogue. Each student will publish their own short story narrative.

#### SPELLING

Spelling groups will start towards the end of the month. Students will be put into groups based on their stage of spelling.

## UNIT OF STUDY

We will be studying environments and the impact of environmental factors on living things. More on this when we start the unit.

## OTHER:

**Field Trip** - We will be going to **Morse Hill Outdoor Education Center** on **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will be leaving at 8:45 a.m. and returning at 3:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided by Morse Hill. Due to the 5/6 team's fundraising efforts last year, there will be no fee for this trip. This field trip will be a community building experience, so 100% attendance is important. Please see the attached **permission slip and waiver** and return them signed no later than Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Students should bring the following items:

- Lunch, snack, and drink
- A hat, sunscreen and bug repellent
- Towel and rain clothes (weather dependent)
- Backpack
- Comfortable clothing and sneakers

Supplies - If your child hasn't gotten all of the necessary supplies yet, please do so ASAP. If you need a new supply list or if you are unable to obtain any of the supplies, please let me know.

Thanks for a great start to the school year. I am looking forward to meeting many of you at Open House.

Sincerely,

Matt Goldman

Yes, my child, \_\_\_\_\_, has permission to go to Morse Hill Education Center on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have signed and returned the Morse Hill waiver