

Dear Families,

August 29, 2016

It is a pleasure to share in the fifth grade education of your child. I strive to enhance the academic, emotional, and social growth of all the children in my classroom. Of course we will be doing lots of reading, math and writing. I believe in doing lots of group work and working with our hands as much as possible so we will be working on becoming cooperative group members. Here are a few basic items of classroom business to share.

- School hours are from 9:00-3:35, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesdays school will let out at 2:35.
- Snack Time: A healthy snack will bridge the gap between breakfast and lunch. Students will eat lunch at 12:25. Please bring a daily snack from home. Student performance is enhanced by healthful energy boost! Please try to avoid sugar-based food for snack. Educational research proves high protein foods enhance alertness. Please feel free to send a water bottle with your child.
- Birthday Parties: Birthdays are a special occasion worth celebrating with friends at school. We will also celebrate summer birthdays in June. Please let us know if you are interested as your child's special day approaches.
- Notes for alternative plans after school: It is essential that school be informed when your child goes home with a friend, grandparent, etc. We must have notification or your child will follow regular routine for after school care.
- Book Orders: Monthly book orders are offered as an optional way to build your child's personal library. Your child is expected to read every night as part of homework. Many families find discounted, publisher direct book purchasing an affordable alternative to bookstores.
- Homework this year will be work that is not completed during the day and will need to be returned the next day. We will have a home folder that all school/class notices will come home in and also a reading log and reflection sheet. I will explain to students the first week how this will work and the logistics for it.
- Parent Volunteers: Parent help in the classroom is very valuable for all of us. We appreciate your efforts and encourage you to volunteer. Please let us know if you can help. Please pick up a volunteer form from the office, complete it and return to the office. The district requires a background check which takes 2-3 weeks to complete. After the background check is complete, we will notify you so we can arrange a time for you to volunteer. These are now good for a full year so I can let you know what the due date is for your renewal if you have volunteered in the past.

- Open House: the date for our formal Open House will be Thurs. Sept. 15th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please be looking for more information in our weekly newsletter.
- There will be more information the first week of school. I am really looking forward to this year and having a great end to the last year for your child being at Tom McCall and an elementary school.

Please feel free to call me at school whenever needed. The phone number is 526-6400 or email: dawn.alexander@redmondschools.org

I look forward to a great year together.

Fondly,

Mrs. Alexander