

# The Room 106 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 9, 2011

## Important Dates

- 9/6—First day
- 9/19—Study Hall begins, 8:05am
- 9/20—School Picnic, 5pm
- 9/20—Open House, following School Picnic
- 9/21—2-Hour Late Opening
- 9/22—Homework Club begins, 3:45pm
- 9/23—Picture Day
- 9/25—Depart for Outdoor School
- 9/27—Return from Outdoor School

## Updated 6th Grade Supply List

- 1 Binder
- Dividers
- Pencil pouch (or something that performs a similar function)
- Pencils
- Pens (blue or black)
- Black felt tip pen
- Glue stick(s)
- Calculator
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Notebook paper
- Silent reading book (owned or borrowed)
- Recommended—colored pencils

## Welcome to Middle School!

I am happy to welcome you to the Robert Gray community! My name is Nick Kapranos and I will be one of your student's teachers this year. 6th grade will be a time of incredible growth—physically, socially, and emotionally. Hopefully this year will be a positive and productive experience that challenges your student.

### CURRICULUM

**Social Studies:** In 6th grade Social Studies, we will study Geography, early humans, and ancient civilizations from around the world. We will also be participating in a program sponsored by Portland State University called ReportingLive. This opportunity allows our class to interact digitally with a college student living abroad. Regu-

larly this fall, we will communicate with John Esh while he explores Poitiers, France. He will maintain a blog at this address:

<http://reportinglivefrompoitiers.wordpress.com/>

**Language Arts:** This year Language Arts will focus on two areas—writing and read-



ing. For writing, we will refine and reinforce skills in a writing workshop atmosphere. Teacher-directed mini-lessons will help students gain and develop the tools necessary to be strong, capable writers. Students will have a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their writing ability throughout the year. In addressing reading skills, we will emphasize a love for the written word. Students will read individually and in small-group Literature Circles. Students will also work on vocabulary development to enhance reading ability.

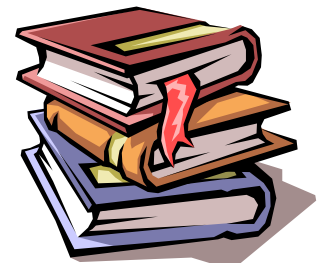
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## Regular Reflection & Organization

Periodically, students will look back at what they have done. Taking the time to reflect on their progress helps students to identify what they're doing well and what needs improvement. The "Reflection" sheet is a line of communication between student, parent, and teacher. When a Reflection is assigned, your student

will bring home a completed sheet to share and get signed. Reflections are due on Tuesdays. Every student at Robert Gray has been given a Planner to assist with organization. Students are expected to record something for every period, every day. 6th grade students also have a Get Organized sheet that outlines binder expecta-

tions. Parent/guardian participation with Reflections and organization helps us all work together to ensure every student finds success.



# More-Welcome to Middle School!



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## EXPECTATIONS

Students will be asked to be RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE at all times. Students are expected to show respect for all classmates, teachers, and staff. Additionally, students should make responsible decisions that positively impact the entire group. Most importantly, students need to make safety a priority. With so many people in a shared space, it is necessary to always be careful and thoughtful.

In the classroom, I will ask students to give their BEST EFFORT. Students are encouraged to always do work of the highest quality. While every student has unique abilities and requires individual

attention, everyone is expected to always give 100%.



## HOMEWORK

Students will have some homework. The 6th grade team will work hard to coordinate assignments so students are not overwhelmed with too much work at the same time.

A weekly calendar ("Week at a Glance") will be passed out on Mondays. This calendar outlines upcoming events and gives information about assignments. This sheet is meant to assist students in developing better time management skills and offer parents a glimpse into the classroom. Please ask your student to regularly share this calendar with you.

The majority of work will be done at school. However, we will do projects periodically that require students to work outside of class. You will be informed when to expect this type of assignment. Also, some students may choose to take work home. If your student becomes overwhelmed, please contact me so that I may make accommodations.

We will be implementing EdBox Gradebook building-wide this year. This will allow you to access your students grades via the internet beginning late September/early October. More to come...

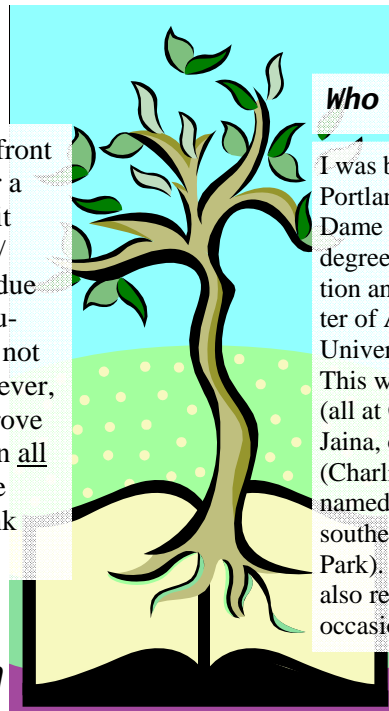
I look forward to seeing you at the School Picnic and Open House Tuesday, September 20th.



## Bookmarks-Reading at Home

One assignment that will be consistent throughout the year is reading at home every night. There is a simple reason for this: time spent reading directly relates to reading ability. Students will be asked to read a minimum of 150 minutes every week. One way to ensure success in completing this assignment is to schedule a regular reading time (perhaps involve your whole family!). Book-

marks can be found in the front section of the Planner. For a Bookmark to be complete it must be signed by a parent/guardian. Bookmarks are due on Tuesdays. For many students, this assignment will not be seen as a priority. However, reading regularly will improve their skills and help them in all subjects. *Please* encourage your student to read! Thank you for your support.



### Who is Nick Kapranos?

I was born and raised in northeast Portland. I graduated from Notre Dame in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in film/television production and history. I earned my Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Portland in 2000. This will be my 12th year teaching (all at Gray). I live with my wife Jaina, our 2 adorable children (Charlie + Lucy), and a black dog named Worley. Our house is in southeast Portland (near Mt. Scott Park). I am an avid sports fan. I also read a bit, cook, and play the occasional video game.

## Contact Information

You can contact me in a variety of ways with your questions or concerns.

If you have internet access, write me. My email address is: [nkaprano@pps.net](mailto:nkaprano@pps.net)

OR

you can reach me by telephone at RGMS. The number is: (503) 916-5676

OR

stop by Room 106—I am available 8:30-9:00 most mornings or 3:00-4:00 in the afternoon.



I maintain a webpage on the school website. Visit: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/gray/244.htm>

I also tweet information. Follow me on [Twitter](#): @graykap

