

*Let us put our minds together and see what life we will help our children make for themselves.
–Sitting Bull*

September 8, 2009

Dear Family,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to my fifth grade class. My name is Melissa Yost and I have been teaching for 11 years in Portland.. I'm looking forward to getting to know you and your child. I expect this year to be exciting, challenging, and fulfilling in many ways.

First important news is an immediate field trip the second day of school! We are going to the Portland Art Museum to view the visiting exhibit of artist/mathematician M.C. Escher.

****It is imperative that all students return attached permission form by tomorrow morning. Please discuss with your child the importance of staying with chaperones at all times and making respectful choices.***

****Please send a sack lunch with your child.***

My teaching style is one that provides a variety of experiences and strives to acknowledge and nurture each child's unique talents and abilities, while taking into consideration the whole child. I believe interaction is one of the essential ingredients for learning. Your child will have opportunities to work sometimes independently, other times with a partner or small group, and participate in whole group discussions. As we get to know each other, we will lay a foundation for a strong sense of community, character building, and creating a safe learning environment.

I will send home a monthly newsletter similar to this to keep you informed of classroom happenings. Here are some things to keep in mind:

Birthdays: During the year, many of the children celebrate birthdays. Instead of treats, if your child wishes to share his/her birthday with the class, he/she may donate a book (new or used) to our classroom library. By signing the book with name and birth date in the front cover, it will become a permanent part of our class.

Homework: Every Monday, a weekly homework packet with an "adventure book" will be sent home. They are due the following Monday. Students may complete them at their own pace. Reading is a key part of the homework. To keep you informed, please be sure to check your child's homework folder daily.

****The first full week, all adventure book homework will be done in class in order to establish expectations and format. After that, all homework should be completed at home.***

Survey: I am interested in how you see your child at home. Please take the time to fill out the attached survey about your child to help me get to know him/her better and return it as soon as possible. There is space at the bottom listing ways to volunteer in the classroom if you are able to do so. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via phone or email: myost@pps.k12.or.us

Book Orders: Each month, I will send home Scholastic book order catalogs. There is no obligation to order. If you would like to order books this time, please send in your order with a check by Tuesday, Sept. 15. Make checks payable to Scholastic Books.

P.E. -P.E. will be every Thursday and Friday. I will keep you informed of any schedule changes.

Library- Library book returns and check-out will be on Mondays.

Sincerely,
Melissa Yost