

August 2008

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Christopher Nelson and I will be your child's teacher this year. This will be my thirteenth year at Jackson School. I am excited to be teaching fifth grade! Are you ready for a challenge?

We work hard in fifth grade! Writing in journals, practicing grammar, math, reading (every night for 30 minutes!) and writing reports are just a few activities we'll do together this year. You can expect **homework almost every night**, but usually not on Friday (Woo-Hoo!). Every day students will complete a page in their **planner**, which lists the night's homework. Please make sure to sign it after the homework has been done. I believe fifth graders are capable of carrying this planner back and forth from school to home. Take the time to discuss their school day with them. The planner is a great way to start. It will also notify you of any upcoming events. Please read the list of supplies carefully, there have been some changes.

This year we'll be using the Reader's Workshop model of reading instruction. I am very excited about it! It compliments the Writer's Workshop we already use, and allows the classroom teacher (that's me!) to integrate all the curricular areas more completely. By that, I'm referring to social studies, science, art, spelling, math, writing and reading. The students will be able to make connections between what they are doing in math and reading. I see that as a real advantage.

As a classroom, we are family. Kindness and respect are two key behaviors that are expected every day. I believe students should support each other in their work; not by giving the answer to a problem, but to help with discovering the solutions together. Remember, if you're not making mistakes, you're not really trying! So, I do expect a lot of effort to be put into classroom work. Every day is a new day, with new possibilities. Help me unlock the potential in your child.

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to come back in the fall to start a super year together. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Nelson - Room 301

P.S. Winnie and Pepper say "woof!" (Hi!)

Here's your first test: WHAT are Winnie and Pepper? (Besides being VERY friendly)

## 5th Grade Supply List

- 1 box of crayons
- 12 Pencils (No Mechanical Pencils)
- Wide lined loose writing paper -  
(Not in a spiral notebook)
- 1 pencil sharpener (optional)
- Athletic Shoes (mandatory for P.E.)
- 1 backpack
- 2 dollars for: Writer's Notebook and Student Planner
- Colored pencils or markers
- 1 pair of scissors
- 5 folders with pockets, 5 spiral notebooks
- 3 Boxes of Kleenex (to share with class during year)
- 1 pencil box (very handy)
- 1 big eraser (optional)