April 8, 2013

Dear Parents,

Two months until you will officially have a middle school child! As a parent who will have a high school graduate at the same time I know the bitter sweetness of these moments. Relish them, but know it’s just part of their road to independence. (Don’t think any of us want our children living with us for the rest of our lives) Keep in mind every mistake is just an opportunity to show them another life lesson.

Homework lines are blurring! While nothing can completely prepare your child for middle school, good habits are a key to success. So, you may notice your child having more homework sheets which means they are not making use of their class time; or you may notice less which means they are making use of their class time. Hopefully, this will help your child practice good habits to avoid the annoyance of extra homework.

Ask about our groking today and how they will use it for their self-selected multi-genre project (four types of writing). Ask to see their spring break thinking homework if they can’t explain it. 21 of your children will be asking for your signature on this topic tonight.

Use their AGENDA to track them. Always ask lots of questions about what they write in it. Remind them to LOOK AGAIN when they say they did nothing in school. I love to hear their expression when we do a LOT in a day and when we have many interruptions.

[REMINDERS

Time to get your child in shape for their bike hike…it’s a great reason to enjoy the outdoors together.

Before you sign your child’s agenda please have your child tell you about their learning. Every repetition of their learning makes it stronger.

Notice the students should be reading AT LEAST 30 minutes EVERY day: at least 20 minutes silent and at least 10

Our class website is more current than these newsletters when you ready for more dates.

Please let me know what to add if you ever cannot find something. This is my first year with a class site. ]

Upcoming dates to remember are:

* April 15 Camp Parent Meeting at 5:30 in the Anchor
* April 25 Parent/Student Middle School Meeting for Fifth Graders 6:30-7:30, Large Gym at Creekside
* May 8 & 9 Noon Dismissal for Tulip Time
* May 17 Egg Drop Physics Project
* May 21 - 24 Fifth Grade Camp
* May 27 Memorial Day, No School
* May 30 Fifth Grade Bike Hike
* May 31 RAIN DAY for Fifth Grade Bike Hike

Your child will need a warm sleeping bag for camp and a bicycle and helmet road worthy enough for our 22 trip. Borrowing is a great alternative if your family does not currently have one or both.

Sincerely,

Patti Walcott

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