<http://mrswalcott.weebly.com/events.html>

Dear Parents,

Here is our special schedule so that you know what your child is doing each day. If you ask what they have in their backpack EACH morning to be prepared for the day it will help them work toward independence: running shoes for p.e. or already on their feet, recorder for music or library book for our check out time. They will have this schedule written in their agenda soon. Make sure your child is taking charge of this more and more each week. Asking lots of questions makes them think and learn more!

**Schedule**

**Monday P.E. & Library**

**Tuesday Computer**

**Wednesday Spanish, Music & P.E.**

**Thursday Music**

**Friday Art**

You can find our yearlong calendar at: <http://mrswalcott.weebly.com/events.html> as it develops. Your fifth grader is tracking these in their agenda on the month page. You can write notes in the agenda about pick up schedule on the day it occurs if it is different than usual. These agendas are an organizing tool for your fifth grader that is an essential life skill. AFTER your child shows their agenda and tells you about their learning, please initial. I am certain you want to build their habit of communicating with you. Consider sharing your organizational tools with them soon!

Ask your child what their homework is for the week. They should say: 1. Go to bed without much reminding 2. Reading Time 3. Talk to you about their learning while showing you their agenda and having you initial! Every repetition of their learning makes it stronger. Other homework will be light this week and next, so we can put lots of effort into building these most important routines.

Today the students are coming home with fundraiser information and paperwork. We, the fifth grade teachers, do this, because we know the cost of our trips can be an issue. Our November trip to Chicago for the Snoozeum is ABOUT $110. Usually a few families can cover all the cost with the fundraiser. A few families choose not to participate and simply write the check for the amount. Most families do a combination. This is the first time we have used the Hungry Howie’s fundraiser, so please be understanding if we haven’t made it seamless yet.

This is an opportunity for you to teach your child about money management and working toward a goal if you are interested. I have observed some families telling their fifth grader they will cover half the cost, and that the student needs to work for the rest. This is quite doable using a combination of resources available: fundraisers, paid extra chores, money from gifts, etc. I share this with you, because while on our trips these seem to be the students enjoying themselves the most. It’s a beautiful thing to observe.

I hope you and I can team up to help your child all year. I will contact you if I have any questions and expect the same. If you ever have any questions or concerns you PLEASE call me before or after school, voice mail 748-4777 x2719. I’m faster at responding to email, pwalcott @zps.org My day is really about teaching children, so, please give me some response time, but not too much either. **That spam folder works too hard occasionally!**  Please don’t hesitate, even a heads up on how your child is feeling, what they are worried about or any other issue. Knowing what your child is thinking helps me teach them well.

It was wonderful meeting almost everyone at open house! Please help me learn your names. When we meet, introduce yourself again. Open house night I really focus on the children.

Thank you for all your fabulous notes and letters and filling out all that beginning of the year paper work. I wish I could tell you the amount of paperwork gets better as they get older, but I can’t.

Please ask your child about mistakes. We refer to it has being human. I have talked with them about how one can learn so much from a mistake and that if they feel bad, it’s only to help remember for the next time. I hope this creates a safe environment where everyone can learn and become more confident.

Next week sometime please ask your child about rotating for math, social studies and science. Fifth grade does this for many reasons:

* Better prepare students for changing classes next year
* Each 5th grade teacher becomes more expert in their subject
* Students are exposed to instructional styles of more than one teacher
* Students feel the day goes by more quickly
* Teachers have the opportunity to get to know all students in 5th grade
* Students have an opportunity to release some energy walking between classrooms
* Decreases discipline problems

Enjoy the weekend with your 5th grader!

Sincerely,

Patti Walcott

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