Mountain Oak School

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June 16, 2013

Dear Sixth Grade Students and Parents,

So the fifth grade is all over. I'm here in Alaska and you are engaged in your own summertime adventures. I'll be missing you all and looking forward to working with you all again very soon.

The school year was a great one. Just before I left for the summer, during the teacher work days, Ms. Roe showed me the results from this year's AIM's testing. We did very, very well as a class; there was great improvement from last year's test scores. I am so pleased with the students' performance, as well as mine.

Speaking of performances, the class play was great. All students were so brilliantly creative with both their acting and staging; I feel that the success stems from the care, cooperation, respect and responsibility that each of the students shows each day. The MOS students were the behind the scenes talk at the Pentathlon for their remarkable nobility. And the students were super-duper-troopers on the Grand Canyon Adventure, showing commitment to one another.

I couldn't have had such an exceptional year with the wonderful students without the incredible support of all the parents. You parents made my job so much easier this year, especially helping the year-end stress to be just smooth and somewhat relaxed. I'd like to thank Maren Yamamoto for being the class parent this year; she was an incredible advocate for the class, thinking of so much that made things run smoothly, things that I wouldn't have thought to ask anyone.

I'll miss bringing the fifth grade curriculum to the students each day—investigating the ancient cultures of India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece; studying the kingdom of plants; discovering the structures of the universe through geometry; exploring the geography of North America. The sixth grade curriculum, however, is also sensational, and the work we'll do

together will give us an even stronger awareness of world and our place in it. We'll be looking up to the stars in our Astronomy block and down into the earth in our Mineralogy block. We'll further our understanding of universal structures with more advanced study of geometry. We'll learn about money and life's finances in our Business Math block. Optics, acoustics, and heat will be investigated during our three part Physics block. And of course the whole of the year will be influenced by the year's theme of ANCIENT ROME. We will order our sixth grade year around, well, order, and discipline, art, technology, and LAW as found in the civilization of Ancient Rome.

You'll be receiving this letter later in the summer. I arrived here in Denali Park just a couple of evenings ago. It is light here all throughout the night—the sun barely dipping below the horizon and the alpine glow making the snow on the mountains an orange, then pink, then purple throughout the hours of the night. The mosquitos are the worst I've ever seen them—big swarms of them so that you can count about 20 on each hand while still you're also blowing them out your nostrils. I'm now in my friend's tiny log cabin, looking out her window and down the Nenana River Valley with snow-capped peaks on either side. I've only seen some moose and a bunch of caribou—no bears just yet and I hope I don't. I'm now off to go climb up Mt. Margaret. But before I go……..

Be sure to bring these things with you
on your first day of sixth grade

1 liter water bottle (filled)
Packet of black pens (3), (not ball-point), and black, black, black
3-ring binder with <u>pocket</u> dividers for at least 5 subjects.
2 packets of college ruled paper put into 3-ring binder
3 packets of college ruled paper
1 packet of copy paper
1 good compass for circle making (be sure it is a good one, not plastic; you'll need to spend some money on this)
1 18" metal ruler with inches and centimeters marked
1 good pair of scissors (the scissors the students now have are getting too small for their hands and don't cut efficiently)
1 packet of pencils
1 pencil sharpener (one that catches the shavings!)

But most importantly….

An excellent attitude, sense of humor, willingness to cooperate and exert yourself, kindness and honesty, respect for yourself and others, questions and opinions, athletic shoes, a hearty lunch, haribo golden bears

I'm looking forward to seeing you again, meeting some of you anew, getting to know some even better, and being the best sixth grade teacher that I can possibly be.

Love the Beautiful
Seek out the Truth
Wish for the Good
And the Best DO!

Have a great day, every one!

What kind of room has no doors or windows?

What gets more and more wet the more it dries?

Yours truly,

Jeffrey Holmes
6th Grade Teacher