



## An Update from Mrs. Hoehlein's Fifth Grade

September 23, 2011

After four busy weeks, I imagine your child is ready for a well-deserved weekend. The beginning of a new school year puts demands on not only the student who is stepping up to a new level of expectation but also the family.

Patience (not patients), one of our vocabulary words for this week, is high on my list of priorities as I gently remind the students that they have identified a few all-encompassing rules that will guide their decisions and shape their fifth grade experience in our classroom this year. As we celebrated Constitution Day last week, we read the preamble loudly and clearly, "We the people..." students connected back to our class constitution once more. I believe a strong foundation of citizenship, responsibility and commitment has been laid for your child.

### **Homework:**

In these early weeks especially, please assist in a creating a homework environment and routine that is as consistent as possible for your child. Check in with your child each day to see if he or she is completing all assignments, if the daily planner is filled out neatly and legibly, if the work appears to be quality work and if your child appears confident and secure about it. Supplies such as pencils, erasers, paper, scissors, crayons, etc. are helpful. If there are siblings or after school friends, I recommend a homework club at the kitchen table. It's an opportunity for you to see and hear your child interact with others about his/her work. Older siblings are often the voice of true experience and if there are younger siblings, your fifth grader can brush up on old skills and gain confidence at the same time. T.V. should be off.

**Curriculum Night** is this Tuesday, September 26th for grades 3-5. I look forward to seeing many of you that night. Please keep in mind that the objective is to present a curriculum overview for the fifth grade year, as well as my expectations for your child's success as a student and a citizen of Room 36. Individual concerns will not be addressed at this time; however, I will be posting a sign-up sheet that evening for Parent Conferences, which will be scheduled on several early-release Thursdays beginning end October. Please bring your calendars and take advantage of this convenient opportunity.

Lastly, thank you for returning the confidential form about your child. I appreciate the time and effort you spent in helping me to better understand your child and how best to serve his or her needs this year. THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Ginny Hoehlein

P.S. I am truly enjoying your children!