

August 2, 2016

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to fifth grade! We hope that you have had a great summer and that you are ready for a fun year. We are looking forward to getting to know you all.

In the fifth grade, we team teach, so the students will be changing classes. Mr. Saylor will teach Social Studies, Mrs. Roddy will teach Health and Ms. Boone will teach Science. We will each teach our own Language Arts and Math.

We hope your child is excited for a great year and is ready to get started. We ask each child to purchase a \$5 planner from his teacher. Please send this in as soon as possible.

### **Student Planners**

The planner will be used to keep track of daily assignments, project due dates, field trip dates, and other important notes and information. A parent, or responsible adult family member, needs to check the planner and initial it daily! Your child should be responsible for showing the planner to you and asking for your initials. Please discuss the things written in the planner with your child, and make sure assignments are complete before signing. Your initials let us know that you are aware of the things written in the planner, and that you have checked your child's homework. The planner is an effort to teach responsibility and accountability, as well as self-directed learning. It is also a way for the teacher and family to stay connected, so please feel free to write a quick note in the planner as needed. We check planners each morning, and will respond accordingly. Conversely, we will sometimes write a note home in the planner, so check it every day! The planner signed each day, along with all classwork and homework completed for the week is part of the weekly checklist in the classroom. Please help us in signing the planner each day. Mahalo!

### **Homework Folders**

Your child's homework folder has a place for papers to be returned to school, and papers to keep at home. Please check this folder often so that your child is not carrying around pounds of paper! Reading Logs are also kept in this folder.

### **D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything And Read)**

We require all students to read each day! A minimum of 30 minutes of reading should be completed each day. After reading, each student is to complete his or her DEAR log. This log is checked each morning at school. Reading reflection is a sentence or two about what was read. Please initial log also. Students should be reading AR books in order to meet their quarterly goal. (Stop by the classroom if you're not sure if it's an

AR book or use the AR BookFinder online at ARBookFind.com) This is a very useful tool. Also, if you have a smart phone, you can download the AR app on your phone☺.

### **Accelerated Reader**

Hopefully many of you are familiar with the AR program. For those who are not, this program holds students accountable for their independent reading. Your child has a reading zone (color coded) within which he or she should be selecting books for independent reading. This will help his/her reading to improve. Our classroom library books and school library books are labeled with the AR level. When students finish an AR book, they will take a comprehension quiz online. Depending on the points assigned to the book, and the student's performance on the quiz (85% or more is the goal), the students then earn AR points. All Students will begin the first quarter of fifth grade with a goal of at least **10 AR points**. Then, each subsequent quarter, students will set their own AR goals with the teachers help. Please encourage your child to work toward his or her AR goal, and ask questions about the book he/she is reading. This will help prepare your child for the quiz. (First quarter is 10 weeks.) 1 point a week is a good goal to have.

### **KidBiz**

We also have another program online where students read articles, respond and answer questions. We would like students to complete two KidBiz articles a week. If a student would like to complete these at home, that's an option. Time will be allotted in class for all students to do Kidbiz.

### **IXL**

We have an online math program being offered again this year, IXL. This math program is aligned with our Hawaii State Common Core Standards and gives the students extra practice in the different math content areas. We teachers assign this and give the students practice in the weekly math lessons being taught so they can master it. This may be assigned weekly.

### **Lunch Bunch**

Each Friday we like to have students join us for lunch in the classroom. Students are able to eat in any fifth grade classroom, with friends from other classes and their teacher. New this year, we are allowing any and all students who would like to join to come. We will continue to use our weekly checklist as a way to keep track of assignments but will not keep a child from attending if they have missing assignments. If you'd like to see if your child has any missing assignments, please stop by anytime to see the checklist or email your child's teacher via the ClassDojo or email/call.

### **Raffle**

Each Friday, we hold a raffle. Students earn raffle tickets throughout the week by turning in reading homework, having reading logs completed and signed by parents, following directions, being good citizens, etc. Donations of snacks, small toys, games, etc

are greatly needed and appreciated as prizes for the weekly raffle. Students really look forward to this much anticipated reward time.

### **Class Schedule**

We have a schedule of classes for each day of the week. We will add to it as things arise. Please note that on PE and Creative Movement days, your child should dress accordingly by wearing shoes for PE and comfortable clothing for Creative Movement.

### **Stepping Stones Math Program**

Our math program is called Stepping Stones. Students have a class workbook and practice book. Students will also be asked to do assignments that align to the current common core standard being worked on through our online math program, IXL. We may also use IXL for a skill to be reviewed or to build on student's current knowledge base.

### **Wonders Reading**

We will be using WONDERS school wide as our English Language Arts program. Wonders has an online component the teachers/students will be using during class time, as well as workbooks to use during class time. In addition, we will be working in small groups, using mini-readers to help build your child's reading abilities and comprehension skills.

### **Homework**

This year we ask students to read for thirty minutes at home, along with filling out their reading log. This should also be written in the reading log with a short summary of what your child read about. Please initial the reading log for the nightly reading. As projects arise, your child will be asked to complete these at home.

### **ClassDojo**

To keep you informed of class happenings, student behaviors, classroom announcements, etc. we use an online app called the ClassDojo. Parents are strongly encouraged to download this app to your smartphone or home computer. Students can also download this app. ClassDojo is a great way to communicate with you. Please see the enclosed sign up sheet.

If you ever have concerns or questions, please send us a note, write in the planner, call the school at 575-3000, or contact us by email.

Ms. Boone	<a href="mailto:daria_boone@notes.k12.hi.us">daria_boone@notes.k12.hi.us</a>
Mrs. Roddy	<a href="mailto:diane_roddey@notes.k12.hi.us">diane_roddey@notes.k12.hi.us</a>
Mr. Saylor	<a href="mailto:msaylor@haiku.k12.hi.us">msaylor@haiku.k12.hi.us</a>

A few dates to remember:

August 10th	Back to School Night 5:30pm – 7:00pm
August 19th	Statehood Day -- No school
September 5th	Labor Day – No school
September 12, 13 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day- More soon
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Complex PD Day- No School
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Wellness/Fun Run Day
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	AR Points need to be in, End of First Quarter
Oct 10-14th	Fall Break
Oct. 24-28 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Teacher Conferences. Early Release (1pm)

Thank you for your support and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

Daria Boone  
Diane Roddy  
Michael Saylor