

# Fourth/Fifth Grade News...from Room 5

September 6, 2007

Dear Families,

The first day of school was fantastic! Our students were so excited about sharing details of their summer adventures, and the beginnings of new friendships have been forged! Your children are inquisitive and eager to learn more. I really enjoyed meeting the families that were able to attend Back to School Night here at Galileo on Wednesday. Due to your obvious support, I know that each child will have an extremely successful school year!

Research shows a strong correlation between family involvement and student achievement. With this in mind, volunteers are welcome in our class. In fact, throughout our career education studies, I will be asking for volunteers to come in as guest speakers to teach the class about the soft skills that are required for particular jobs. There are also always opportunities for parents to help our class at home by doing prep work, etc. Let me know if you are available. **If you are planning to volunteer directly with students this year, even as a field trip chaperone, you will need to attend a volunteer training schedule and complete the attached form.** Thank you for your active involvement.

Mr. White and I will be doing some teaming this year every Monday-Thursday morning. I am the writing teacher, and Mr. White is the math teacher for our collective students. Please contact the appropriate teacher regarding questions/concerns throughout the year. (Other than math, all of the core subjects will be taught to our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students by me)

Electives will begin on Monday, September 17. A selection sheet with descriptions of the courses will be sent home next week. Please return the slip ASAP as classes will be filled based upon a first-come/first-served priority basis. This year, electives have been scheduled for Monday-Thursday. GATE, Independent Study, and Bilingual program students will interact together during electives. Each non-Spanish-speaking teacher has been paired with a Spanish-speaking teacher so all Galileo students will have a language enrichment experience. (Cadet Corps and Math Team will however be led by English-only instructors).

As for other class related information, we begin each day out on the track. After performing calisthenics, the children do combinations of walking, jogging, and running on the track. Each fifth grader will be timed for the California physical fitness exam to record his/her mile-run score. We practice daily in order to build endurance and stamina. Please have your child wear, or bring P.E. appropriate footwear to school each day.

The first Homework Packet is attached and is due on September 14. Please consider obtaining a dictionary and a thesaurus for your child if s/he does not already have one. These will be very useful tools for many assignments throughout the year.

Please note that we will be on Minimum Day schedule each Friday. Our lunch/recess time will be 10:15 to 10:45 AM on those days. Our "Regular" Day lunch time is 11:30 AM-12:10 PM.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Miller