

August 24, 2012

Dear Fifth Grade Parents and Guardians,

Congratulations on raising your child up to the fifth grade! As a father of a three-and-a-half month old boy, I respect the time and energy that you have clearly put into raising them. Great job!

I was fortunate enough to work with many of your children last year when I supported Spanish University with Señorita Morphy, and I can already sense that this will be an incredible year for all of us. I have had so much fun these first two days getting to know your children, and I am consistently amazed at their intelligence, maturity, and desire to learn (and laugh)!

Fifth grade is a year filled with growth, challenges, and achievements on both an individual and group level. We have many activities and events planned for this year including: a four-day trip to Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, a field trip to a San Francisco Museum, writing and meeting pen pals from San Pedro School in San Rafael, participating in Family Life, and finally, celebrating with a well-deserved trip to the bowling alley.

I am looking forward to discussing expectations, procedures, curriculum and volunteer opportunities at Back-To-School Night Thursday, September 6. The fifth grade team has been working together to design engaging lessons and units for our children. In fifth grade, our policy is to have a daily planner notebook. Your child will be responsible for having you review and sign it each day -- confirming they have finished their homework. Plan for this structure to be in place sometime next week.

For a little more background about me and my teaching experiences, please visit our classroom website at: <http://pdevoto.reedschools.org>. Here you will find a class calendar, daily homework assignments, contact information, student resources, my classroom policy, and more. Please note that the calendar, especially the homework assignments, are subject to change, so please encourage your child to check it regularly. You will also find an online parent survey under the *Parents* tab. If you have not done so, please complete the survey as it provides valuable information about your child. A sincere thank you to those of you who have completed it.

You can reach me by email anytime at [pdevoto@reedschools.org](mailto:pdevoto@reedschools.org), or phone (415) 388-7100 extension 2103. If you need to send a message to your child during the school day, it is best to call or email the front office as I tend to get immersed in the learning taking place within the classroom. I believe in effective and open communication and will try to respond within 24 hours to any correspondence.

Thank you for your commitment to education and support of our entire class. By working together, we will make fifth grade a positive and memorable experience for all of us. I look forward to meeting each of you soon.

Sincerely,

Paul Devoto

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