

Southmoor Elementary School

September 9, 2009

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade HGT



Greetings,

We enjoyed meeting with everyone last week at Curriculum Night and we appreciate the well attended effort! We want to remind parents that the upcoming HGT field trip to the Georgetown Loop is on Thursday, September 24, 2009 and we will be leaving first thing that morning in order to get to the train stop on time. Parents are welcome to join us on this field trip but will have to follow the bus in their own car (or carpools) and meet us at the Exit 226 train stop by the 11:15 departure time. The cost for the train ride and mine tour is \$29/adult. Your child's ticket has been purchased by GT funds. We are really excited about this field trip that we are taking with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade HGT class and hope anyone who is interested will join us for this great field trip. The aspen trees should be at their peak!

Last week, we took our first field trip of the year to SPREE and visited Frontier Park. We learned about mining, ecology, and gold panning in the South Platte River. It was great fun!

The students are finishing letters to relatives about how their families moved west and have been reviewing summaries in writing. Students wrote summaries about a history movie we watched recently using 2-column notes they took as practice for note taking in history. They also wrote summaries about last week's field trip to SPREE. The students will be taking benchmark exams this week and next Monday. After the tests are complete, we will begin our big unit on expository writing as we dissect an expository essay, paragraph by paragraph and sentence by sentence. Expository writing skills will support writing expectations for the science project this year and will also support the state report project in the second half of the year. In addition, grammar skills are being taught everyday with one grammar packet of homework weekly and one test weekly.

In reading, the students are well on their way in Jump Start Reading Comprehension curriculum and Literature Circles are beginning this week, with the historical fiction genre as the first unit of study for book groups. As we explained on Curriculum Night, the first literature circle celebration will be the week before fall break (we are planning on that Monday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> as the date for our movie day and literature circle celebration. Any treats you want to offer will be welcome! Novels have been chosen that correspond to the Westward Movement unit we are reading and studying about in history and the Read to: "The Captain's Dog, My Journey with The Lewis and Clark Tribe". And to add to that, the students will soon be hearing about the musical, Lewis and Clark, in music classes with Mrs. Roy. So as you can see, everything is integrated in 4/5 HGT and supportive of each subject as much as possible.

In Mr. Fell's Class:

Student Everyday Math Journals and Study Links have been distributed to both Grade Levels. Parents should expect their children to be assigned mathematics homework Mondays through Thursdays. The homework shall be taken from the Everyday Study Links.

One of our parents, Mr. Berenbaum will be doing a hands-on science demonstration about H1N1 preparedness. He will be talking about the spread of germs and what students can do to minimize their risks at school and at home. This talk dovetails with our first focus of science this year—human systems. Students also had a chance to conduct Internet research about bogus science concepts such as the discovery of the "tree octopus".

In Social Studies, we are currently discussing various types of maps and its applications to people. Latitude, longitude, and various geographical landforms are being investigated.

Benchmark testing begins this week with writing skills tested on September 10<sup>th</sup>, reading skills on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and mathematics testing on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

As explained at Curriculum Night, we would like to begin conferencing with 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents soon so as to help the effort for the middle school search. Expect a call or an email from us soon and please let us know if a Monday or Thursday morning or a Monday-Thursday afternoon (after school) time slot works for you and we will get that scheduled very soon. The best way to contact us is through email at [grace\\_hopley@dpsk12.org](mailto:grace_hopley@dpsk12.org) and [tom\\_fell@dpsk12.org](mailto:tom_fell@dpsk12.org), but if you do not have internet access, give us a call at school or send a note with your child with your preference and dates that will not work for you.

We are also looking for interested parents to lead a once a week lunch class in the mobile on a fun skill for children to learn. We are looking for classes that can last about a month and could include such skills as card playing, photography, arts and crafts, knitting, athletic skills. If you are free on any lunch period during the week and enjoy working with kids, we would love for you to come teach classes during the lunch hour in the mobile. Teachers are there to assist you. This is especially fun for the kids during the winter on inside days.

### **Important Upcoming Events**

**Benchmark Testing, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**No School for Students on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**Georgetown Loop Fieldtrip, Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, all day. Have students bring a sack lunch, sunscreen and clothing appropriate for the mountains during this time of year. There will also be a mine tour. Parents are welcome to accompany their students but will need to purchase tickets (\$29) and provide their own transportation.**

**The Moose is Loose School Fundraiser, Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Come on out and join the fun and support our school!**

**Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-8 p.m., October 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be distributing formal letters for signups within the next few weeks.**

**Literature Circle Party, Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents can bring in treats appropriate for the season. Time: 2:30-3:00. Location: Rooms 110 and 111.**

Thanks for being involved!

Mr. Fell and Ms. Hopley