**Welcome to 5th Grade!**

**From Ms. Daddona and Ms. O’Donnell**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We are excited to welcome you and your child into our 5th grade classes! We are committed to making this a positive, productive, successful and memorable year for everyone.

In this packet, you will find a brief description of expectations, procedures, and information specific to our classroom. Remember that Open House is coming up soon (Wednesday, September 20th) and we will be going into all this in much more detail. In the meantime, please look through this information packet for pertinent information.

We are looking forward to working closely with you and your child this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Sincerely,

Kerry O’Donnell Patty Daddona ELA & S.S. Math & Science Room 3407 Room 3406 kodonnell@wcpss.net pdaddona@wcpss.net

**Classroom Behavior Expectations:**We use a school-wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) system where the students are expected to show their Panther PRIDE. In the classroom, the students are expected to show their PRIDE in the following ways:  
Positive Attitude:  
\*I will choose and show my best attitude.  
\*I will use good manners and speak kind words.  
\*I will respond positively to others.  
Respect:  
\*I will be considerate of others’ learning, time, and space.  
\*I will take care of things around me and clean up.  
\*I will use an appropriate voice level and tone.  
Integrity:  
\*I will only do things I am proud to admit.  
\*I will report without tattling.  
\*I will tell the truth.  
Discipline:  
\*I will take ownership of my actions.  
\*I will make good choices.  
\*I will think before I act.  
Excellence:  
\*I will give 100%.  
\*I will put forth my best effort.  
\*I will minimize time off task.

**Classroom Management:**  
We will be using Classroom Dojo this year in both of our classes. There is a sign-up sheet inside this packet. Please register for the class DOJO.

**Attendance & Absences:**  
Fifth grade is an extremely important year! Our day starts promptly with the 9:15 bell and it is vital that your child arrives to school on time each day. Here at Mills Park students may begin entering the classroom at 8:45. They have materials to organize and morning responsibilities daily. The extra time allows for a calm and smooth transition into our busy day. If your child will be absent from school (due to sickness or an appointment), please send us an email before school starts.

In addition to being on time, it’s also important that your child remains at school all day unless they have scheduled appointments. The office asks that students be checked out before 3:20pm each day for appointments to avoid congestion at dismissal time. Dismissal is at 3:45 (except on early release Fridays). To avoid dismissal confusion, any changes in afternoon plans require a, dated, and signed note, an email, or phone call from the parent or guardian of the child changing the routine. Please be sure to take care of this first thing in the morning if possible. Thanks for helping get your child home safely.

If your child is absent, please send a note in with them on the day they return. The note should include your child’s name, the date(s) of absence, and the reason they were absent. An e-mail sent to let me know your child would not be at school is considered an absence note. *If no note or email is received your child’s absence will be considered unexcused.* Please refer to the Wake County policy for what constitutes an excused absence.

**Early Release Fridays:**  
September 29, October 20, November 21, December 21, February 9, and March 2

**Tuesday Folders/Homework Folders:**  
We will be using a folder for our homework this year which will also be their Tuesday folder. Each night, the students will bring home the folder that contains their assignments. The students will have reading/writing, math, science and social studies homework each week. Part of the reading homework is to read for 20 minutes every night if not given ELA homework. Homework is expected to be turned in on a daily basis. MobyMax is a program used for homework a lot, there is a form included so you and your child can sign in.

Tuesday folders may often contain papers that need to be signed and returned. Please try to look at these folders on Tuesday night and have the students return them to class on Wednesday morning.  
\*\*Please be understanding if folders come home on another day of the week. Sometimes everything is not ready to be sent home on Tuesdays and we don’t want the important papers to get lost. :)

We know that students are often involved in extra-curricular activities, so if your child cannot complete their homework one night and needs an extension, or if they do not understand the assignment and need extra help with it, please email us or send a note so we are aware of the situation and can provide help when necessary. Students are expected to read for 20 minutes every night. They will complete a reading response based on this reading. Please be advised that we do not accept late homework unless we have received an email or note from the parent stating why the assignment could not be completed. The homework assignments given in class reinforce what we do in the classroom on a daily basis and this is a way for your child to practice and extend what they learned in class so it is a very important part of their education.

**E-mail and Class Directory:**  
Our classroom will have a group email, which is a great form of communication between parents, teachers, and students. To start, it will be used specifically for electronic reminders of classroom happenings/changes in our schedule/etc. Our intention is also to cut down on the amount of paper being sent home. We will also be using *Remind101*. Be sure to give us your email address(es) to be included in our class list serve. Look for our first email next week!

**Open House:**  
Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 for grades 3-5 from 6:00 - 6:45 pm.  This will be an important evening when parents will learn more about the curriculum and expectations of fifth grade.

**Daily Schedule  (subject to change)**  
8:45-9:15 Arrival, Prepare for Day, Morning Routines  
9:15-10:10 Block I   
10:10-10:55 Specials 11:05-12:00 Block I continues 12:00-12:45 Block II 12:50-1:20 Lunch  
1:20-1:50 Recess/Bathroom & Drinks after  
2:00-3:30 Block II continues  
3:300-3:45 End of Day procedures, Pack Up, Dismissal

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| **Specials for Ms. Daddona**  A Day: Music  B Day: PE (Forsberg)  C Day: Art  D Day: PE (Forsberg)  E Day: Media  F Day: Tech/STEM | **Specials for O’Donnell**  A Day: PE (Forsberg)  B Day: Art  C Day: Tech/Stem  D Day: Media  E Day: PE (Forsberg)  F Day: Music |

**Snacks and Classroom Treats:**Considering we have a very long morning before lunch, your child will have the opportunity to eat a *healthy* snack each day. We will continue our regular classroom activities during this break, so the snack should be simple and healthy. Since this is a working snack, it should be something easily consumed and not requiring utensils. Fruit is always a great choice as well as things like pretzels, cheese, crackers, carrots, etc. PLEASE have the snack prepared ahead of time (washed,and sliced) so that it may be ready for your child to eat immediately. If you want to send treats in for a birthday or holiday, please let us know at least one day in advance so that we can plan accordingly. (We do have special dietary restrictions in our class and want those students to participate!) Please remember: ALL items that are sent in for the class must be store bought and must be consumed **in the cafeteria**!

**Volunteers:**  
Please note: If you are interested in being a volunteer in the classroom or for field trips, you must come into the school to register as a volunteer and be granted clearance first. There is a computer in the library designated for this process every Monday.

**Website:**  
We utilize our class websites often. This is a place where we will post announcements and any useful documents that we may be using in class. Our weekly newsletter will be posted no later than Tuesday of each week on our website. We will announce tests, long term projects, or give you an insight into what we will cover during the upcoming week. Please be sure to check the site often! To access the site, simply go to the Mills Park school website and find my name on the staff page and you will find a link to our page.

Or, we’ve added it here too: <http://5thgradempe.weebly.com/>