**Back to School Night**

**4th & 5th Grade**

**Thursday August 10th,2017**

**Mr. Luke Brownell**

**Communication**

 There are several ways to get in touch with me. The best way is by email (lbrownell@auburn.k12.ca.us). I check my email throughout the day, and it is the easiest way for me to communicate with you. You can also send a note with your student, or jot a note down in their planner for me. You can also call me directly in the classroom, but I ask that if you need to leave a message for your student, that you call the office, and have them relay it for you. If you would like to set up a time to talk about your student we can do that anytime, but I ask that we have a scheduled time.

**Classroom Website**

 This year we have a classroom website. This site has been designed to create better communication with parents/guardians and to have resources available to families. Feel free to check out the website on a regular basis to see what we are doing in class. I will be sending you the link shortly or for a head start.

**http://mrbrownell.weebly.com/**

**Homework Folders**

 On the first day of school your student was given a teal homework folder. This folder should have your student’s homework in it every day, and should come back the next day with their completed homework. On Tuesdays, I will be sending home school flyers and information in the homework folder, so please look for those on Tuesdays.

**Homework**

 I will not be giving homework out in the traditional way. The only homework that your student will have is the classwork that they do not finish in class. I will not be handing out work as they are heading out the door.

 Research is unable to prove that homework improves student performance. Rather, I ask that you spend your evenings doing things that are proven to correlate with student success. Eat dinner as a family, read together, play outside, and get your child to bed early.

**PLC Mondays**

 PLC (Professional Learning Community) Mondays are scheduled so that staff members can use this time to meet, plan, and work to improve your student’s education. The PLC Mondays are almost every Monday, and **your student is released at 2:15**.

**Phone Calls Home**

Arrangements for going home to each other’s houses, and other after school activities, need to be made before school. I have meetings, bus duty, and other things after school, and cannot always wait for your student to make phone calls home after school.

**Absences/Tardies**

Please follow the school procedure for calling in an absence. Your students work will be collected on the day or days that your student is absent. This work will be sent home the following day with your student. You may request that the work be sent home or picked-up by someone, but please set that up through the office. Students who are absent will have as many days as they were absent to complete make-up work. Work not returned will receive a zero.

**Study Skills**

 Students are expected to come to school ready to learn. Students are required to bring their teal homework folder and their daily planner every day. Desks and binders are expected to be neat and organized. Your student is also expected to have all the necessary supplies that they will need. All work and papers are to be kept in their folder. Please help your student organize his or her folder, but please do not throw any papers away without checking with them first. We will clean our folders out on a regular basis.

**Math Books**

Your student’s math book is a tear out style, and your student has the option to take the book home, or to leave it here. If your student takes it home, please be sure to help them bring it back. As of now, we do not have any extra books.

The math program also has a website that goes along with it.

<http://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

On this site students and parents have access to homework helpers, tutors, homework pages, as well as math games.

**Science**

I will be teaching science to the new NGSS standards. Earth Science – Earth’s systems; Life Science – Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; Physical Science – Structure and Properties of Matter.

 There is not yet a publishing company that is making curriculum for the new science standards, so as a 4th & 5th grade team we are working together to gather materials. One is Mystery Science, and another is Studies Weekly – a periodical with weekly labs and activities.

**Music and Band**

 New this your, all students will be taking a music class with Mr. Kepfer. 5th grade students are also given the opportunity to take band with Mr. Kepfer. (Mr. Kepfer will be sending home more information about this later.)

**Field Trips**

 We have a few fieldtrips this year already planned, but the dates are not nailed down yet. They do cost money, so have your students start doing chores now to earn money. ☺

4th Grade 5th grade

Coloma Gold Country State Capitol and I-Max Sacramento

Walk Through California Walk Through the Revolution

Railroad Museum Sacramento State Aquatic Center

Skatetown

**Parties/Birthdays**

Feel free to bring in treats for your students for their birthdays. They can bring them in first thing in the morning, or before lunch. I try to give them the sweets before recess or lunch so that they can run off the sugar.

 If you would like to help plan holiday classroom parties please let me know.

Thanks so much, and I know we are going to have a great year!

Mr. Brownell

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