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September 5, 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! Thank you very much for all of the supplies you have provided for your children and our classrooms this year. We greatly appreciate your support! We look forward to the opportunity to share all about your child’s sixth grade year at Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Additional items to note:

* The PTA is generously supplying each 6th grader with a free yearbook. If you would like an additional yearbook, please fill out and send in the order form. Otherwise, you don’t need to send anything.
* The PTA is also supplying students with t-shirts to wear on fieldtrips this year. The t-shirts will be mandatory attire, so please remember to order in a size that will fit the students throughout the year. The order forms can be found in the PTA opening day packet.
* The book fair will be held early this year: September 10th – 12th
* The Ice Cream Social will be on Friday, September 12th from 6:30-8:30 pm
* Our students will, once again, be participating in the “Book It” program this year. More information will follow.
* Sign-ups for Lego League, Lion Club, and K-Kids have started. Please see the attached for more information.

We’ve been very busy this first week of school! Here’s what we’ve been up to:

**Language Arts:** Students had the opportunity to share their wonderful acrostic poems and get to know one another better. Students set goals for themselves, as well. Classes worked on putting together their Language Arts binders and discussed how to choose “Just Right” books that are fast, fun, and fluent. Finally, students were assessed to determine word study levels for this fall.

**Math:** So far this week we spent time determining our beginning Rocket Math levels (the district’s basic fact practice program), and students are getting familiar with the 6th grade daily routine. We began our first unit, Collection, Display, and Interpretation of Data, and will continue working with different types of graphs as well as mean, median and mode next week.

**Social Studies:** Students will be learning all about geography during the first few months of school. We began the year by sharing about our vacations and answering some questions about the location, climate, land, and latitude and longitude of our vacation spots. Students then designed t-shirts to represent their vacations. We finished out the week looking at geographic terms and definitions, and learning about the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction.

**Science:** We started the year with a focus on being and becoming an excellent observer of our world around us. The students participated in various activities demonstrating the importance of observation and how to become more adept at it. Next week we will begin by defining science (thank you for all of the magazines ((we will take more if you have them)), and discussing the various branches of science.

We hope you had a great start to the 2014-2015 school year! We’ve truly enjoyed getting to know all of the students and look forward to an excellent year.

Sincerely,

Craig LaBarbera

Jill March

Shoshannah Moyer-Gabbert