

5K Newsletters 2018-19

May 27, 2019

Well, I have had a chance to take a breath and am ready to send out the final 5K update for the 2018-19 school year. Since I have your attention....I'll start with my annual year end poem. Please take a few minutes to read and share with your kiddos.

In August

Out on the blacktop on August Fifteen
We met the 24 fabulous faces that would be our new team
Name games, strange names tags, and learning about GRIT
Mastering the ins and outs of how to flexibly sit
We shared memory boxes and stories of the bear on the playground
NBP team building making wild animal sounds

In September we had our final and last Fall Fun Days with Mr. B
We met Miss Susan and her amazing stories
We learned about Water Cycle and precipitation
And started working with our book buddies with excited participation
We wrote Lanes and Haikus and Inspired by poetry
Multiplication Ninjas showed their math mastery

October heralded Heritage Night was a great evening of sharing culinary treats
Garden lessons taught us about structures and functions got us out of our seats
New World Discovery began with family trees
We had All School BINGO and our 1st Bead jar party
The Halloween parade was fun all around
The flash mob covering the entire playground.

November arrived with a character study of Kenny in the Watson's

As readers 5K really began to blossom
A field trip to the Clyfford Still and Denver Art Museum
Setting sail across the Pacific Ocean as colonists searching for freedom
Learning math strategies with 9 Man Morris in play
Hawkquest visited with Birds of prey

December brought computer with Hour of Code
A service trip to CalWood to haul wood
A four legged ambassador from the W.O.L.F. sanctuary
Taught us that wolf dogs are beautiful, not scary
Watching our Spelling Bee participants was exciting
We worked hard on personal narratives and Thanksgiving writing
Our last trip to Jamestown was a bit bittersweet
The last time 'driving' through Mr. B's streets

January started off with mixtures and solutions in science
Prompts on the board each day, self reflections were abundant
Geo Bee finalists Wheeler and Bella B
Fractions, fractions, fractions in math, students kept yelling "Whoopee"! :)
In instrumental it started sounding a lot less squeaky
As students began to play more frequently in key.

February brought the final 5th Grade showcase
MS counselors introduced their steps towards a new learning space
Books to End Racism through Reading
Thank you all for making those conference time meetings!
A variety of solution to dissolve candy hearts
We rotated through classes on each system of the body and its parts
Learning about skeletons, lungs, stomach and digestion
There was never a lack of clarifying questions!

March meant the Talent show with expertise abounding
CU Teach Students McKenna and Allie taught science so astounding
They Shared hands on-lessons in levees
We learned about snow days without snow that was heavy
Weekly Mystery Doug never answered about Pizzly Bears
But we learned about yawn, dragons, diamonds and eyebrow hairs
Love poems and I am From poem and the Poetry Machine
13 colonies, Mr. Fumpledink and the raccoons in our colony teams

April brought CMAS, with hard working attitudes
And Book clubs books read with our favorite reading dudes
We Researched women during the Revolutionary War
In our Cabaret the new song "We Are Women" stole the show!
At CalWood we survived predator/prey
Learning to play Gaga Ball and hiking for long days

May found us winding down in a hurry
We did Mystery Hangouts with Ohio and Missouri
If you've never been to Calwood poems that brought tears to my eyes
And we mastered the Constitution hows and whys
A day at CU with wizards and water
But then May, quite sadly, never did get any hotter
HGD (and the famous Game of Thrones analogy)
Making our words for this year's quilt so elaborately

It's been year full of laughs, jokes and smiles
Learning, hard work, homework and maybe a few trials
Each morning began with a eye catching greeting
A part of my heart each child was completing.

I can't thank you enough for the blessing of a year
Each one of you kids will be forever held dear
All of those tears on the last day of school
A testament to the close friendship and trust
Your kiddos are awesome and extraordinary
Thank you again for sharing each one with me.

Just a little housekeeping:

Report cards are completed. Please let me know if there is anything odd. I am known to miss a square here and there as I complete them.

I hope you find (or found) a large stack of work that came home on Thursday. Please take a few minutes to go over the Human Growth and Development test with your student. They all learned SO MUCH but I can't encourage you enough to keep the lines of communication open. They are still curious.

You also will find two reading reports. One is a summary of all of the AR quizzes taken this year. Looking at the sheer volume of books read this year makes me giddy! This class loved to read and I hope they keep it up. There is also an iReady report that shows test scores from the three tests taken this year. I was blown away by the growth made by many students. A typical 5th grader grows by 18 points and should end the year at a score of 608 or higher. HOWEVER, these are just one day computerized tests that give one small perspective. If your child is not where we would expect, I have completed multiple other reading assessments and determined that we are all reading just fine! Face to face reading assessments always give better feedback and everyone did a great job. If you have any questions about reading, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Research (Who Was) projects were also handed back. If there are not comments on the packet, they were given digitally through Classroom.

The last days of school were quite remarkable. If you have a chance to thank the graduation committee, please do. Not only was graduation perfect, but the Rocky Mountain Day Camp with Sweet Cow ala mode was FANTASTIC. Thank you for financially and/or physically supporting such a fun way to end elementary school.

I have NEVER had such an emotional class as this one. The tears were flowing freely on Thursday afternoon. We talked a lot about how sadness comes only when there is great happiness. As my dear pal Winner the Pooh says, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." Your children's tears were a testament to what a great elementary school experience they had with an amazing group of friends. I trust they will take those strong feelings forward to find happiness wherever they may go.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks for helping us all to make this a good year. I try to never underappreciate the support you all provide at home that makes our days at school successful so I hope you all felt my gratitude. But I will thank you yet again. Thank you so much for showering me with support and gifts.

The gifts cards, flowers, chai, notes, classroom supplies and hugs have all been so wonderful. Thank you for taking the time and know that every gift is sincerely appreciated. Most gifts come back to feed the classroom (Barnes and Noble books for our shelves, REI cards for more camp chairs, Target for markers and glue sticks, etc.) but for those that cannot (massages!!, flowers, dining gift cards) know that they are used with all of you in mind.

Thank you for a great year. My best wishes for you all.

April 29, 2019

It is almost May despite the snow I see falling right now. Hopefully all this bad weather will be done with and we will have a beautiful, temperate May.

Here's the plan for this last month:

We still have math and cursive due each week. Take a look at the OOPS. I have told the kids that if they can get 90-95% return rate on cursive that they don't have to do it the next week. We aren't even close. I could really use some help with reminders at home.

May 3 - Who Was Due

May 6 - Begin HGD - be sure you opt out if you choose

May 10 - I will be out celebrating Mother's Day with my daughter :) Thank you in advance.

May 14 - CU Water Festival (look for permission slip)

May 15 - 5th Grade Instrumental Concert 6pm

May 22 - Graduation for 5th graders

May 23 - last day of school (look for permission slip)

And the note below is from the McKernan's who have graciously offered to tackle the equivalent of Mt. Everest for everyone and put together the graduation slideshow. PLEASE!!!! RIGHT NOW!!!! Send a few photos. Thanks.

Hello 5th Grade Families!

We are busy preparing the 5th grade slideshow/video presentation! We are asking for teacher and parent support so that everyone is represented.

Please submit any **SCHOOL-RELATED PHOTOS AS WELL AS A KINDERGARTEN PHOTO** of your child via Google photos or email to kristen.mckernan@sbcglobal.net

The unique Google link is <https://photos.app.goo.gl/UJGmaFkR6ej9MVPu6> .

In the "say something" box, please include your child's name and the year of the photo. Please do the same if you email/attach so we can keep track of everyone.

Please have all submissions completed by Friday, May 10. Thanks in advance for 100% participation!

Kris and Ed McKernan (Declan's parents)

720-545-6179 Kris

720-445-2213 Ed

April 8, 2019

Dear 5K Parents,

I will try to be brief but know that there will be quite a few announcements in the coming weeks as we have so much going on and I don't want to lose any of the thousand balls we are juggling!!

1: Homework - Because of CMAS, cursive and reading for 30 minutes are the only homework. Please check the [OOPS spreadsheet](#). We are doing the math 'homework' in class. When you see math come home, take a minute to look at the worksheet. Anything that is circled is incorrect and anything that has a box around it was not attempted. I ask you to look with your child as those boxes indicate one of two things - your student is not using class time to get their work done and/or they are not taking the opportunity to write down the correct answers as we go over EVERY problem together. It's worth a conversation at home.

2: Long term research project: students will be researching and writing their [own "Who Was" book](#). We will be learning and practicing research skills in class but THE PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED ENTIRELY AT HOME!! It is due May 3rd which is 3 1/2 weeks away. This is when students will be practicing their long term time management skills. They have set a goal for themselves this week to find a few good resources by Friday. I will try to update you each week on what goals they have set so you can support them at home.
(And speaking of Who Was books, if you see any floating around your house the have 5K or Newfield written on the spine, please return them. Thanks!)

3: Caberet is Thursday at 8:30. Have your students wear black and white - ish. Please do not purchase anything, just as neutral as your clean clothes will allow.

4: CalWood is not that far away. Take a look at the [packing list](#) so you won't be caught off guard.

5: And lastly, as the weather becomes delightfully warmer, the shorts and t-shirts are coming out of the closet. Remember that your student may have grown quite a bit since last fall. Shorts can become shorter and tops can become skimpier. As we enter this last science unit on Human Growth and Development, we try to honor that students are all at different developmental and comfort levels and appreciate any support you can give to helping us keep the focus on the academics as we are often sitting and working on the floor. (Was that appropriately tactful? 😬)

March 18, 2019

We are in that final countdown to spring break. I hope you all have some wonderful family time planned for the end of the month. Please don't forget to read during the break. I tell the kids it is like eating - reading should happen a little bit every day so our brains don't starve.

These last months of school get pretty busy so I want to keep our calendar updated. Be sure to check in to the calendar linked on the website.

March 19 - CalWood information meeting 3pm

March 19 - all CalWood paperwork is due

March 20 - Field trip to Casey Middle School

March 23 - March 30 - spring break

April 1 - Back to school

April 2 - CMAS starts

April 4 from 6:30-9:30 - The PTO is sponsoring a "Give to Grow" fundraiser at Rayback Collective

April 11 - 5th Grade Caberet at 8:30AM

April 12 - April 15 - No School

April 24 - 26 CalWood (Woohoo!)

May 14 - CU Water Festival

May 15 - 5th Grade Instrumental Concert 6pm

May 22 - Graduation for 5th graders

May 23 - last day of school

I know! That is quite a schedule. And along with all of that, we still have quite a bit of learning to do. Look for a long term project that will be completed at home in April. And cursive and math will continue to be due on a weekly basis.

February 21, 2019

It was a great Showcase this morning. I think it is confirmed that you are all as fit a 5th grader! Thank you for supporting your students and our specials teachers today.

Please check the OOPS spreadsheet for missing assignments. And ask your student if they have math homework tonight. I sent home some unfinished or incorrect work to be handed in tomorrow. You will be seeing more of that this last trimester as we really work hard on the responsibility of homework.

From PTO: Last Chance to Order a Yearbook (please note that 5th grade is a big year for yearbooks. Students spend a lot of time the last few days of school sharing signatures before venturing off to

middle school. Please consider purchasing one for your student or contact me if you need financial assistance.

Deadline to purchase yearbooks is this Friday, March 1st! To check if you have ordered a yearbook, please click [here](#). *This list is all orders that were received as of Thursday, February 21st - if you ordered after this date, your order will not show up on this list.* If you have not yet ordered a Yearbook, but would like to do so, please see below for Ordering Instructions. Thank you for your support!

- To order with a credit card, [CLICK HERE](#) or go to YBPay.lifetouch.com. Yearbook ID Code : 13539819
- If paying by cash or check, order forms are available in the office or can be requested by emailing foothillpto.yearbook1@gmail.com.
- Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school

Questions? Contact Yearbook Chair, Ashley Cohen - foothillpto.yearbook1@gmail.com

January 29, 2019

Conferences begin next week. They are student led so be sure your student will be available at the time you sign up!!!

Thank you all for carving out time to come see what your student is accomplishing this year. This will be their last PTC of elementary school! It's the first step toward that graduation in May.

We have been having fun with mixtures and solutions. Ask your student about lemonade and rainbow colored salt water. We will finish up this week and start body systems next week. Be mindful of absences for the next few weeks. We will be mixing all of the 5th graders up into 4 groups that will rotate through each teacher for a different body system. That makes it a little trickier to catch students up on content.

We just finished writing procedures and will be diving into some poetry for a bit. And we are reading *The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963* together as a class. Ask your student about Byron and his do!

In math, we will finish up with multiplying and dividing fractions and moving into decimals in the next week. Most students have figured out the formulas for solving these problems but few have mastered how to draw a picture to explain their thinking. Take a look at Seesaw this week as you will have a few examples to see.

Finally, a plea for snow shovels. If anyone has an extra lying around, we could use one. The kids would happily shovel off the blacktop if they just had a shovel. THANKS!

January 14, 2018

Happy New Year! We are off to great start. I was so excited to see everyone again after the break and we are back into our stride quickly. I love it!

Some curricular updates: we have moved back to science for a few months after wrapping up the settling of the new world (and thankfully everyone survived!). We started mixtures and solutions today and will follow this unit with body systems. We have been working on writing personal narratives in a variety of different formats and should have our works published in the next week or two. Tomorrow we will begin a class book, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963*. We will be doing most of the reading of this book at school but you may see it at home from time to time as make up work. It does take place in 1963 so if you wanted to support with background conversations at home, that is always a plus. And we are multiplying fractions in math these days. They are all getting very frustrated with me as I won't let them do it the easy way - we are drawing the concepts so the understanding goes deep.

We will have quite a few field trips coming in March, April and May. I do have several parents who have volunteered for the big CalWood trip but want to be sure there wasn't anyone else who was anxious to spend three days with 100 10 year olds! Just let me know!

And conferences are just around the corner as signups will be released next week. ALL WINTER CONFERENCES ARE STUDENT LED. Your student will be leading their own conference for all of us so when you find a time slot, be sure your student can attend also. I realize that after school sports and activities can make that hard so if you are having trouble finding an available time, let me know. I can schedule them outside of the three conference days.

As always, I love spending time with your kids. Thank you for sharing them with me. They never cease to make me smile!

December 10, 2018

Happy Holiday season to all. These weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Break can be so so busy and I really appreciate you all keeping in touch with me about comings and goings. I'll try to be brief:

Tomorrow, Dec. 11 - Field trip to CalWood - PLEASE DRESS YOUR STUDENT FOR WINTER!!! We will be outside all day. The forecast for CalWood says a high of 41 and that will likely

come about just as we are leaving. There is snow on the ground so please send good hiking or snow boots, a hat, gloves, and a warm coat. Sack lunches are also necessary for tomorrow. We plan to leave at 9 and return around 2. Thank you to our parent volunteers who will be joining us.

Dec. 14 - Foothill Spelling Bee. Max and Scarlett will be representing 5K!

Dec. 19 - Instrumental Music Concert

Dec. 21 - Visit from Wolf Sanctuary and last day of school before the break.

As you prepare for the holidays, remember that the Share-A-Gift drive is underway. Please consider donating new or gently used items for those less fortunate this year.

Thanks so much!

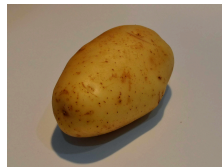
November 11, 2018

Yikes, I have been remiss. I feel like we have all touched base with conferences last month so there hasn't been much to update. But then today I realize that there is actually quite a bit to share.

First off, as we head into Thanksgiving week, I want you all to know how thankful I am for each of your children. They make me laugh, make me think, push me to try new things, push me to be a better educator, and most importantly they make each day a blessing. I am so very grateful. If I only had time, I would send a note to each one of you every day telling you what your child has done to brighten my day. My heart is touched every day by every one of the 5K students. Thank you.

And now business.

- Report cards are available on Wednesday. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.
- We just finished our 1st unit of fractions. The report card will not reflect this as we still have one more unit to complete. But know that the kids ROCKED it. I am so impressed!
- Thank you for supporting reading at home. I love that the kids beg me to give them reading time each day. They are eager to learn because of all of their reading.



- Please send in a potato this week. Yes, a potato. We will be making potato turkeys with our kindergarten buddies on Friday.
- This is the last week for the book fair. 5K will have an opportunity to buy 'toys' on Tuesday so if erasers and back scratchers are on your list, send funds.
- Consider sending in any loose change for our Feed the Beard fund drive. The beards in the building will appreciate your support of their fuzz and of the Epilepsy Foundation.

- Can you let me know if you are leaving early for or extending Thanksgiving Break? NO judgement here! I know travel costs play into plans and appreciate those constraints. I just like to know who will be out so I can plan accordingly.
- Speaking of being out, I will need to take a few days around the 1st of December as my mother is having a knee replacement. I'd like to be available for her but will keep it limited to 1-2 days.
- As you organize for winter, please consider bringing any extra coats or jackets to school for our annual Share a Coat drive. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Safe travels to all. And happy times spent with family to all.

October 20, 2018

Your kids are awesome! We had a full bead jar celebration yesterday and without any prompting, your kids brought in healthy snacks to share. They were conscientious about bringing enough LeCroix for everyone and also being sure the popcorn was shared equally. They are so kind and thoughtful and the clean up of the room afterwards was amazing. (I can only hope that continued to the homefront!) And hearing them laugh and giggle together warms my heart to no end.

Thank you to all who came to PTC this week and I am looking forward to seeing everyone else next week. I really appreciate the time you take to talk with me.

Halloween is just around the corner. We will have our traditional parade and flashmob starting at 2pm on Wednesday, October 31st. Please remember that we have small children at the parade so save the scary costumes for nighttime trick or treating.

October 2, 2018

Welcome to October! A few short notes for this week:

From your PTO: Come and meet other parents of your child's grade for a fun night of adult socializing THIS WEEK, Wednesday, October 3rd from 6:30-8:30p. Thank you to 5th grade parents Jennifer and Andy Goldman for acting as hosts! [Click here to view party location and RSVP.](#)

Heritage Night is this Friday. Thank you for talking to your students about their heritage. We made a great map to show where we are all from. Please stop by on Friday night. It looks to be a grand and fun celebration.

I will be out on Friday visiting my son at college. The kids had a good time two weeks ago with Ms. Judy and she will be here again this week.

PTC are coming up. You will receive a sign up via the front office. Please sign up for one time slot and come with any questions or concerns or celebrations you may have. I so look forward to being able to sit down with everyone for a dedicated 20 minutes.

September 26, 2018

We have added a new layer to classwork this week - spelling! From this point on, each week students will be getting 10 new spelling words. You will find them in the right column of their planner. Each student has their own words, many of which may be taken from a list of words that is posted on the 5K website every week. You can find that under "Assignments and Documents". (What that means is that if a student is absent when we add spelling words for the week, they can find them on their own at any time. AND if they left their planner at school, they still have access to the words.) We are trying to get in the habit of spelling tests every Tuesday starting next week. Please ask your student to share their words each week and spend some time practicing them.

September 27 - Field Trip to Denver

October 5 - Heritage Night (check out the fun 5K map on Seesaw!)

October 12 - NO SCHOOL for students only

September 18, 2018

Just a few updates for this week:

You should have seen a permission slip come home for NEXT week Thursday's trip to the Denver Art Museum. Please sign and return. And I need one more parent to come along (we have to have 3 parent volunteers in order to go!) If you haven't already, take a look at HelpAtSchool.com. Find my class and you will see how you can sign up for volunteer positions such as this field trip.

Please take a look at the OOPS spreadsheet with your student. If they are having a hard time completing homework, let's talk. I'd love to find a way to be supportive from school.

Please send healthy snacks. I am seeing quite a bit of candy come out as morning snack. We have spent time talking about how a little sugary treat AT THE END OF A MEAL is better for your body than a full sugar snack on an empty stomach. I will ask students to put away sugary treats during morning snack so please send a healthy option.

Not my favorite thing to do - but I need to remind you about some donation opportunities. A note will come home tomorrow reminding some folks of the \$25 for field trip fees. And from the PTO:

FUND THE FOX UPDATE: We have now raised nearly \$40,000 with 21% of Foothill families participating. Every little bit counts, and there is no donation too small! (Seriously - \$5, \$10, \$1) Learn more about what Fund the Fox provides + donate: <https://www.foothillpto.com/fund-the-fox.html>

KEEP YOUR STUDENT'S STUFF OUT OF LOST + FOUND! Mabel's Labels can be placed on shoes, coats, lunchboxes and anywhere else you can think of! Now when you order, not only will your child's stuff easily be returned to you, but Foothill will also receive 20% of proceeds as well. Click here to order: campaigns.mabelslabels.com and choose "Foothill Elementary School PTO (Boulder)" from the School/Organization list.

THANKS!

September 8, 2018

I always feel like September is the real start to school. Once we pass Labor Day, there is no doubt that we are fully back to school. We are truly settled in now. We had a class meeting this week and one of the kiddos summed up the start to our year so well: "This is a really nice class and I really like how everyone is kind and helpful." I couldn't have said it better myself.

We are still getting our math feet under us working on multiples, factors, math facts and math vocabulary. We will be starting our first unit in Geometry after next week. We are learning about the water cycle and weather vs. climate in science. We have been reading about poetry and reading poetry to find inspiration for our own writing. And we make time every day for silent reading. This class loves to read - and that makes me happy!!!

Fall Fun Days are this week so remember to pack hats, sunscreen and water bottles on Wednesday and Thursday. And also note that students do not have school on Monday, September 17th. (Teachers will be in professional development classes all day.)



Back to school

.....
WELCOME

I hope to see many of you on Wednesday evening at Back To School Night. We will have time to look at the schedule for the year, talk about expectations, and answer any questions you may have. If you cannot make it, let me know and I'll be sure to forward any important information your way.

The first piece of homework came home on Friday. Every week students will receive a cursive packet on Friday and it is due the following Friday. As we begin our first weeks of cursive, it can be very hard for some students. PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR STUDENT SPEND MORE THAN 30-40 MINUTES A WEEK ON THE PACKET!!!! It is intended to help them learn cursive, not for them to become frustrated! If your student is struggling to complete the cursive, please talk to me!!!

The second piece of homework will come home on Monday. Every Monday, students will receive a sheet of math practice. We will go over it in class on Monday so the homework for Monday night through Wednesday night will be to practice what we have learned. It should not take more than about 10-15 minutes to complete each night. Again, if your student is taking more than that, please let me know so that we can make adjustments.

We are settling nicely into our routines and I am learning about what a remarkable group of students are in 5K this year!

5K, August 19th, 2018

We had a great first few days in 5K. I will be able to share a lot more at Back to School Night (which will be on August 27th!!!) but for now I have a few important messages.

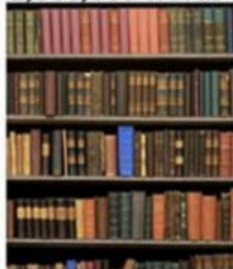
- 1 - Instrumental Music begins tomorrow. Students will be coming home with a packet of information for you. Please look over it as there are important dates and times for instrument rentals.
2. We have our first field trip to North Boulder Park on Friday, August 31st. Any and all parents are welcome to join us. We will be picnicking and team building to start the year off right.
3. Please ask your student about their homework folder. It will be traveling along side their planner EVERY DAY to and from school. Please help the establish good routines now for remembering those items each day.
4. Encourage your student to read for 30 minutes every single day. It is the single most effective thing a child can do to succeed in school! Take a look at the graph in the next slide.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)