

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to Hamilton Elementary for the 2011-2012 school year! This is going to be a very exciting year for each of you, especially in science. Ms. Badalucco and Ms. Andrews will be co-teaching science in the 5th grade. Ms. Andrews was a permanent substitute here at Hamilton last year and has experience teaching in all classrooms from pre-K to eighth grade. She is excited about the opportunity to get to know the fifth graders better and get them ready for a new year as Middle School students. Ms. Badalucco joined Hamilton recently from Nevada where she taught 6th grade. Ms. Badalucco has her Masters from the University of Nevada, Reno in Elementary Science Education, and a strong science background using inquiry-based methods. She is looking forward to bringing her experience to Hamilton.

Fifth grade science classes will continue using the FOSS System that many of you are already familiar with. The FOSS system is based on the idea that students learn science best by doing science-therefore much of our time will be spent in the new science lab, and **NO** work will be done with books. Because of this reason, the majority of your students' grade will be taken from in class notes (science notebooks), participation, and comprehension of the material through projects, quizzes, and unit tests. The more students are actively involved, the more they learn! Outside work for science will be extensions of the lesson presented in lab and designed to explore the world around them. The main units students will be studying this year include microworlds, measuring time, levers and pulleys, and solar energy, along with a science fair held to check students' understanding of the scientific process.

This year in science we will also be promoting student responsibility and organization. Students will be receiving a science notebook where they will keep all important lab work, notes, charts, and lab information, and they will be shown what is expected to be written in them. These notebooks will be checked frequently for both organization and content. If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to ask a fellow student or check the science website for missing work. These science notebooks will count as a large part of the students' grade, and if it is not brought to class daily, no grade can be given.

Grading for 5th grade science is as follows:

Lab Extensions (Take home observations) – 5%
Science Notebook/Class Participation – 45%

Quizzes – 20%
Tests/Projects – 30%

We hope to reach each individual student and get the best out of their learning experience here at Hamilton. Feel free to call or email us anytime with questions or concerns. Parents are also welcome to schedule meetings or class visitations. We look forward to another exciting school year and getting to know each of you as we discover together.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathryn Andrews

Ms. Kerrie Badalucco

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Students and parents, please sign and return saying that you have read the science expectations. Also, please let us know if you have any questions!

Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____
