



### **NEWS FROM MRS. COLLINS**

I am happy to report that Fifth Grade has adjusted well to changing classes. They have been very cooperative. We are working hard in all our subjects and we completed some diagnostic math and reading tests. I am pleased with the progress and enthusiasm of the students.

I appreciate all of you who came to meet me at Back-to-School night. I look forward to working with you and your children this year. Please contact me with your questions and concerns.



### **MONARCH BUTTERFLIES!**

Fifth grade has been very excited to witness first-hand the various stages of the Monarch butterfly. My friends, Linda and Philip Malin, presented a program during the first week of school. We saw a tiny butterfly egg, caterpillars of various sizes, and caterpillar skins. The Malins left us several caterpillars and some milkweed so that we could watch the transformation. Every day begins with their check of the activity in the butterfly tank. All of our caterpillars formed chrysalides which have hatched. We released 14 butterflies which will migrate to El Rosario, Mexico where they will spend the winter and begin the first stage of the migration back to Pennsylvania next spring. They will mate along the way and their descendants will finally begin to arrive here next summer. One butterfly had damaged wings and she has been returned to the Malins to live out her life in safety. Ask your children to share with you some interesting information which they have learned. We are very fortunate that the Malins present this program for us. Last spring they received an award for their civic involvement in their efforts to rescue, raise and release the Monarchs. I hope learning about Monarch butterflies is a memory the students will treasure as they mature and that they are sharing their enthusiasm with you.



**MATH**

**Fifth grade** has been working very hard to master numeration from billions through thousandths. We are reading, writing, expanding, comparing, ordering and rounding.

**Sixth grade** is also studying numeration from hundred billions to millionths. They will progress into adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. Sixth grade uses a middle school book which is the same series they will use in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**How can you help?** Point out to your children examples of large and small numbers that you see in the paper. Ask if they can read the number. Also, **practice, practice, practice** basic facts. Use time in the car to quiz them on multiplication facts **out of order**. Give them the product and have them tell you what they would multiply to get it. For example, if you say 54 they should answer 9x6. Fifth grade has a multiplication review sheet taped in their notebooks. They should be memorizing or reviewing a column each night.

**Math Website:** If you would like your child to practice math skills, a good website to check out is [www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com). It is organized by grade and topic. There is an explanation of the skill and then many self-correcting practice problems. In the Sixth grade book, there are references throughout the book to the Prentice Hall website for online quizzes. All you need to do is enter the address on the internet, and then enter the code in the book.



### INTEGRATED LANGUAGE ARTS

We completed several activities using our summer reading book, *Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear*. Now the students have received their tradebooks to read for their lessons with me. The assigned books are *Ben and Me*, *Phoebe the Spy*, and *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. Ask your child which book he or she is reading, what it is about, and if they like it. These are the books they will use to complete the thinkmarks which I explained at “Back to School Night.”

Also, they should have turned in 2 reading logs (red and blue) by now to keep track of their home reading. The goal is 15 minutes per school night for a total of 60 minutes per week. Please remind them to turn in their reading log (signed by a parent) on Mondays.

The students also are working to complete a Book Log which they should have in their ILA folder. Their goal is to read 6 books and turn in the log on Nov. 21. The required genres are realistic fiction, mystery, and a “How to” book. There will be an oral report and demonstration on the “How to” book in October. The other 3 books are the choice of the students. If there is no reading level letter on the book, it should be approved by me. They may bring books from home or use the classroom, school, or public libraries to find their books.

I am trying something different with spelling this year. The students have a list of lessons with 20 words per lesson. I gave them 2 copies of the word list so that they could

keep one at home. I plan to dictate the lesson on Monday and return it to them on Tuesday so that they can study the words they didn't know. They will highlight these on the word list. On Thursday and Friday, I will test them only on the words they misspelled on the pretest. On the first lesson, most students had mastered all 20 words by the end of the week. I hope this continues to be an effective way to study spelling words.



### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Both **fifth and sixth grade** have been studying map skills. I will be retesting some students on identifying the continents and oceans on a world map.

Our first issue of ***Time for Kids*** has arrived. Please watch for the accompanying worksheet. It is helpful if you check this over to make sure your child is truly reading the magazine and thoughtfully answering the questions. Most weeks they have an entire week to read the magazine and complete the worksheet.

In celebration of **National Constitution Day**, we have been learning about our Constitution. At school the students will have the opportunity to “sign” the Constitution. Some good topics for discussion at the dinner table or in the car might be the meaning of the Preamble, the Bill of Rights and the Amendments. Point out to your children references to the Constitution on TV shows or in the news. Help them to appreciate that our Constitution is very much alive and affects our lives.



### **FIELD TRIP TO THE FULTON**

Both Fifth and Sixth grade will travel to the Fulton Opera House on Tuesday, Sept. 23, to see ***Oklahoma***. “O, What a Beautiful Morning” it will be when we depart by Holy Trinity Bus (not *A Surrey with a Fringe on Top*) to see this classic American musical. In addition to the memorable music and the lively choreography, the children will learn the history of how this part of our country developed. Please be sure to send permission slips and money no later than Monday, Sept. 22.