

Dear Parents and Students,

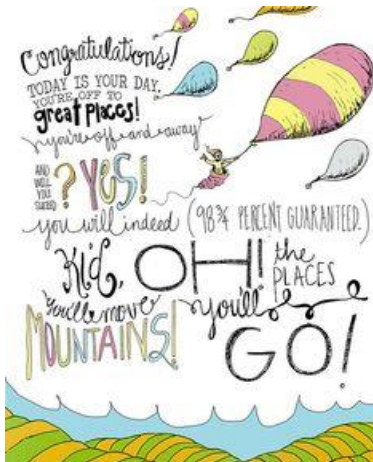
As the school year approaches, we are very excited about meeting you all. Mrs. Erickson spent the summer getting her oldest son, Kyle, ready to start his freshman year at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Ms. Gandolfo got married and is now Mrs. Holmes! To celebrate, Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Holmes went on a vacation to Antigua. We hope you all enjoyed your summer vacation as much as we did.

Now is the time to begin preparing for another exciting school year! Once again, we will be implementing the Columbia Reading and Writing Program. You will soon have an opportunity to live like a real writer and experience what it is like to get lost in a book. How will this happen? You will learn that writing involves more than just taking notes and preparing rough drafts. You will also learn that good readers and writers make a habit of noticing, remembering, questioning and wondering about the world around them.

In Science, you will be learning how animals adapt to survive their environment. Did you know that a bird's beak is designed to help them eat specific food? We will also be teaching you physics! Have you ever wondered why when you drop something, it lands on the floor? Or, why objects move at different speeds on different surfaces? You will find out the answers in our class!

Social Studies will take you around the world. We will be studying different countries. You will learn about their customs, geography, history, government, and economy. We will take a journey to the coldest place on Earth. Then, we will visit a country with amazing animals!

As the wonderful Dr. Seuss wrote:



Let us celebrate life together as a new school year begins. Third grade is filled with new challenges and goals to achieve. Be prepared to learn many fun and fascinating things about the world in which we live.

On the first day, please bring in your supplies (labeled with your first and last name), a healthy snack, and your favorite book.

**"On September 3rd, you will join our parade.
Follow the rainbow to your new room #403, in 3rd Grade!"**

We are looking forward to watching you grow and succeed throughout the year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Holmes