

# MS. OLSON'S FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

Welcome Newsletter

STERLING  
FALCONS

Welcome to the new school year! I am excited to be a part of this wonderful school community this year. We have had a strong start to the school year. Students have been learning classroom expectations and have been getting back into the routine of being at school each day. Students have already earned a class celebration by filling up the class pom pom jar by being safe, respectful, and responsible.

This year students will be rotating between classrooms for their core instruction. **Fifth graders** will join the 5/6 classes for three hours each day. That time will be divided between Mrs. McKinley teaching writing, Mr. Krauklis teaching reading, and Mrs. Knobloch teaching math. Students have been practicing this rotation and learning about each teacher's classroom expectations.

**Fourth graders** will stay in our classroom for reading instruction. Some of the other fourth graders will be joining us, so there will be 14 students in the class during instruction. Mrs. Blake will be teaching math. We will both be teaching writing, keeping the class sizes small. All students will be in their homeroom for science, health, and social studies instruction. I will attach our schedule at the end of this newsletter to help you see how these rotations will work during the school day. I know that this is new so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you have about this.

Homework:

Homework usually consists of: spelling, multiplication math facts, and reading. It will be sent home on Monday, and only the signed reading paper will be due on Friday. Homework will not be given over weekends or holidays. It is important for students to read at least 20 minutes each night. If you need help finding material at the correct level for your student do not hesitate to contact me.

# MS. OLSON'S FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

## Monday Folders:

Weekly papers, including the homework will come home each Monday. Please sign and send back items in the "Return to School" pocket.

## Grading:

I will be posting grades to Power School on a weekly basis. Information will be sent home so that you may check on your students progress easily at home.

## Classroom Expectations:

In addition to the school wide expectations of being safe, responsible, and respectful students worked together to create classroom expectations. As a whole class we brainstormed a list of expectations that students wanted to enforce this school year. We then narrowed it down to their top six. The students decided that no stealing, no cussing, have courage, be a buddy not a bully, pay attention, and be kind, would be our classroom norms. Students worked in small groups to create posters that were put up in the front of the classroom as a constant reminder.

## Consequences and Rewards:

I rely heavily on reinforcing positive behaviors as a management technique. In our classroom we are using the school wide reward system of pom poms for being safe, responsible, and respectful. As students fill our class jar with pom poms they earn a classroom celebration. In addition to doing pom poms each of the intermediate classrooms are using Falcon Money. Students each began the year with \$200. They can now begin earning Falcon Money with their classroom jobs. Students will also be able to earn Falcon Money with our morning Brain Buster. When students are not following school or classroom expectations, I will give them a verbal warning to help them correct their behavior. If they continue to misbehave they will fill out a stop and think, which will be sent home and signed.

If students do not correct their behavior after a verbal warning, and filling out a stop and think, I will give them a natural consequence. For example, if a student was using one of the spring chairs incorrectly and did not correct their behavior, they would lose the privilege to sit on one of those chairs.

I know that when we work together, the students succeed. If there is a recurring issue, I will speak with you to find a solution that works for both your student and you.

## Volunteers and Chaperones:

**In order to volunteer in the school, for any reason, or chaperone field trips, you must be cleared through the District Office.** *Please sign up to be a school volunteer on the KPBSD website. Go to the Volunteer Tab and follow the directions. You are most welcome to come into school and use our computers.* Debbie, our secretary, can show you where to fill out the form

# MS. OLSON'S FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

online. Sterling Elementary is a wonderful place to be and we appreciate all of our volunteers!  
**It takes 2 weeks to get approved to be a volunteer, so please do this ASAP!**

## Snack:

Students have snack each day in the classroom. Students are encouraged to bring their own healthy snacks, such as crackers, fruit, or granola bars. If students are unable to bring a snack or forget it at home, I have snacks available to them in the classroom. I would appreciate any snack donations that you are willing and able to make. Students have asked me about doing an afternoon snack. If you want your child to have a snack to eat in the afternoon please send one. However, I will not provide a snack for the afternoon.

## Recess:

Students go outside UNLESS it is  $-10^{\circ}$  or colder. That means if it's raining- they will go out. Please provide adequate outerwear for your child. This means feet, too. Boots, hats, coats, gloves, and snow pants are very important in Alaska. If you can't provide for your child, please let me know and I will do my best to find a way to get what's needed. Please label your child's gear.

## Absences:

I can't stress enough how important it is for your child to be at school every day unless ill. In elementary school all absences are counted as unexcused. If you go on vacation, please give me advance warning. I will talk to you about what is expected from your child. If your child is struggling in an academic area, please try to schedule trips that have the least impact on direct teaching instruction. Your child's well being is my top priority. When they are upset, it affects their ability to learn. If for any reason your family experiences a change, either good or bad, please send a note. It is very helpful to have a heads up so I can better serve your child.

## Contact:

Do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I check my email each morning, lunch time, and at the end of the school day. I will also check my voicemail at those times. My email address is [jolson2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:jolson2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us) or you can call me at the school, 262-4944. Please keep in mind that I will be unable to return calls during class time, but I will do my best to return your calls as soon as possible. We will be using the Remind app this year. It will be really helpful in sending out quick reminders! You can download the app for iPhone or Android. If you don't want to download the app you can set it up to send text messages to your phone or emails. To join text "@45201720" to 81010 or send an email to [45201720@mail.remind.com](mailto:45201720@mail.remind.com) If you need any assistance with this, contact me and I can add you to our class account manually. This app is completely private. No one will see your phone number or email address.

# MS. OLSON'S FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

Daily Schedule for 4th Graders					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-8:35				Staff Meeting	
8:35-8:50	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess Duty
8:50-9:30	Get Ready for Day, Penmanship, Brainbuster, Calendar, Attendance, etc.				
9:30-10:00	PE	Music	PE	Music	PE/Music
10:05-10:30	First Rotation Blake Math Olson Reading				Testing
10:30-11:05					
11:05-11:45	Class Meetings/ Social Studies				
11:45-12:15	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess Duty	Recess Duty
12:20-12:50	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Blake Library				Science/ Art Projects
1:30-2:00	Second Rotation Blake and Olson Writing			Art	
2:00-2:30	Third Rotation Blake Math and Olson Reading			Art	
2:30-3:00				Housekeeping	Computer Lab
3:00-3:30	Library	Read Aloud			
3:30	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal
3:45-4:15					

Daily Schedule for 5th Graders					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-8:35				Staff Meeting	
8:35-8:50	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess Duty
8:50-9:30	Get Ready for Day, Penmanship, Brainbuster, Calendar, Attendance, etc.				
9:30-10:00	PE	Music	PE	Music	PE/Music
10:05-11:05	Core				Study Hall Silent Reading
11:05-11:45	Class Meetings/ Social Studies				
11:45-12:15	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess Duty	Recess Duty

# MS. OLSON'S FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE

<b>12:20-12:50</b>	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<b>1:00-1:30</b>	Core	Core	Core	Core	Science/ Art Projects
<b>1:30-2:00</b>	Core	Core	Core	Core	Art
<b>2:00-2:30</b>	Core	Core	Core	Core	Art
<b>2:30-3:00</b>	Core	Core	Core	Core	Computer Lab
<b>3:00-3:30</b>	Library	Read Aloud			
<b>3:30</b>	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal
<b>3:45-4:15</b>					