

October 23, 2013

Dear Stratfield Families,

As we head into colder days and wave farewell to the warm weather, I wanted to let you know of a few exciting things happening here at Stratfield this year. This year, the teachers and students will have the opportunity to work closely with Curriculum Leaders, Mr. Michael Rafferty and Mr. Walter Wakeman. Mr. Rafferty is Fairfield's Curriculum Leader for Reading and Language Arts PreK -5, and Mr. Wakeman is Curriculum Leader of Mathematics and Science PreK-5. As a school we are focusing on engaging students to think critically in all content areas. We are expanding our questions to allow students to think more deeply about the text they are reading, the problem they are solving, or the task that they are working through. So far in this process, Mr. Rafferty has worked with grade 2 students and staff and will be moving throughout the grade levels. Mr. Wakeman has begun working with grade 5 students and staff and will also be moving throughout the grade levels. This work has been exciting for all involved, and we believe it will allow our students to develop a higher level of understanding.

Additionally, our LAS's and MST held a parent informational session to present the Reader's and Writer's Workshop in grades K-2, as well as the new Balanced Math Model. We will have 2 additional math parent presentations to share how this model is being implemented within the classrooms. The dates for these presentations have yet to be determined, however, electronic flyers will be sent out via the PTA Flier in the near future.

In the area of social development, we continue to reinforce and promote messages of community and good citizenship throughout the school. Teachers utilize Responsive Classroom strategies and we have begun monthly Pillars of Character lessons for all grade levels in the LMC. Teachers also continue to utilize the book, Have you Filled a Bucket Today? to discuss simple ways to fill other people's buckets while keeping ours full as well.

At Stratfield School, the staff continues to look for opportunities to give to the community. Each Friday, the staff wears jeans and donates money to give to a local charity each month. For the month of September, Stratfield staff donated \$201.00 to the ASPCA. For the month of October, the staff has been collecting non-perishable food items for the local food bank, and a monetary donation will be given at the end of the month as well. A big

"Thank You" goes to Mrs. Frankel for organizing these donations this year as well as all of last year!!

Lastly, I will be utilizing Infinite Campus to send out reminders and updates to the Stratfield community. If you have not registered as of yet, please be sure to do so. Thank you all for your continued support!

Respectfully,

Ms. McGoey