

# Room Hotel News

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September 11, 2016

## We Are Rolling

As I write this letter I can't help but think back to 15 years ago and what happened the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>. I plan on talking with the students Monday morning about the events of that day and how they have changed our world. I encourage families to talk with their students as well, let them know what you were doing that morning and what changes you may have witnessed.

With the first month of school in the books we are really starting to hit our stride. Last week in your Monday Folders you received the login information for *Aeries* so that you can see how your student is doing in class. This will allow you to see your student's grades as well as any missing work they might have. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

*Ms. J. Williams*

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*What we learn  
becomes a part of  
who we are.*

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### Important Dates

September 20 – Lockdown Drill

September 23 – Progress Reports Due

September 27 – Progress Reports Go Home

September 28 – Board Meeting

September 30 – Student of the Month



(L) 5<sup>th</sup> Graders working with their Kinder Buddies. (R) Genius Hour creating backpack carts.

## Social Studies

The students have been reading about Paul Revere and the Colonies, which lead to the beginning of the United States. This started to a very interesting conversation in class regarding family and ancestry. The students may be asking questions about grandparents and great-grandparents. We have learned that many of the great-grandparents in our classroom served during World War II, which many students did not know before this discussion. I am looking into ways on how we take this conversation a bit further in a creative manner.

## Math

The first unit of study in math is just about complete. The students have done pretty well with exponents and order of operations. I have noticed that some students are still struggling with multiplication. ***These skills are very important and I cannot emphasize enough how important this is for successfully understanding the 5<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum and math curriculum going forward.*** If you can please help with this by just throwing multiplication and division facts out to your student and you can monitor their progress. Using flash cards is a

great way to master these skills. Many students are doing the work correctly, but because they don't know their multiplication facts they are getting problems wrong or having anxiety over a problem they can not answer. The next unit of study will be statistics, probability, and ratios. I will be posting videos for these concepts to the website in the coming days. Lastly, *Ten Marks* is a program that students can work on at home. If they come home saying they don't have homework this is not the case. *Ten Marks* is on-going with assignments always accessible to them. This is a great compliment to our math curriculum and students should be doing problems at home nightly.

## Homework

I want to clear up a miss understanding some of the students have regarding homework. Homework is **NOT** optional and is **DUE** when assigned. It is not something they can turn in whenever. For math they will have math homework every night with no exception. I will always give them at least 20 minutes in class to work on their math homework. They should be able to complete the assignment in that amount of class time. If they do not complete it, then they must do it for homework. If we do not have time in class then I will not assign homework in math that evening. For Language Arts they will **ALWAYS** have reading whether they are at school or not. They must read 30 minutes each night and complete the reading log, which is a different question each night requiring a paragraph answer. This is 5 nights a week. If your student tells you they do not have homework check the class website under the homework section and see what has been assigned.

## Class Elections and Jobs

As part of our study of the development of the United States the students will take on jobs that are modeled after elected offices and appointed positions in our government. These jobs will help the student to learn responsibility as well as leadership skills. A full list of positions both elected and non-elected can be found on the website after it is introduced to the students later this week. Each student must run for one elected position and can apply for as many non-elected positions as they wish. Elected positions will require a speech, a poster, and campaigning. Look for more information about this toward the end of this week.

## Book Orders

This week I will be sending home order forms for Scholastic Books. These are a great way for the students to pick books that are at their reading level and of interest to them. I will show the students how to order the books. Books can be ordered either online with the code that will go home with the orders or by in-class order. Books can be paid for by check written out to Scholastic Books or cash. Online orders can be charged to a credit card. Please consider purchasing books for your students to encourage them to read. During the year Scholastic does have promotions that I will make you aware of.

## Website and Contact Info

Class Website – [www.schooldaystoday.com](http://www.schooldaystoday.com)

Email – [jwilliams@streamcharter.net](mailto:jwilliams@streamcharter.net)

## Wish List and Donations

Clorox Wipes      Graph Paper

Copy Paper      Target/Staples Gift Cards