

Pittsfield Elementary School  
34 Bow Street  
Pittsfield, NH 03263



August 2009

Dear Future **First Grade** Parents or Guardians,

I am looking forward to working with your child this academic school year and helping him/her achieve his/her full potential. It will be a year of transition for your child. Not only will he/she continue to grow physically; he/she will continue to grow in his/her academic skills in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Amazingly, this will happen while he/she is getting used to a full day of school. Every morning, we will start our day with **Morning Meeting**, a time where we will be establishing new friendships and growing as a classroom community. Your child will have one day each week to **share** a thought such as what he/she did on vacation, something about his/her pet, a visit to a relative's house, maybe something funny his/her sibling did, or a special experience. Your child is welcome to bring an item that connects with his/her "share" such as a seashell, book, or other souvenir. **Please do not send in toys to share.** Your child may bring in a toy to play with during recess time, but unfortunately, we are not responsible if the toy is lost or broken.

As a parent, you have a very important role in the success of your child's academic achievement. Staying involved in your child's education is the key to a successful year. Engage your child in conversation about his/her day; he/she might not be ready to talk right after school, but when he/she is ready, take the time to listen. An important time to engage him/her in conversation would be the night before his/her "share." Ask your child the night before what he/she plans to share the next morning.

Each day your child will be bringing home a **Homework Folder**. There may be special notes from time-to-time, as well as his/her homework log that will need to be checked and initialed by an adult. Every night your child will have reading homework and usually a *Math Home Link*. Read to, and with, your child every day. The more your child is exposed to language, the easier it will be for him/her to incorporate new skills in reading and writing in the classroom.

The Everyday Mathematics program provides *Family Letters* at the beginning of each unit. The letters will help you understand what your child will be learning in that unit, including games that you will be able to play at home as a family. Directions for the games will be sent home as the year progresses, and may be assigned as homework on specific nights.

A few thoughts about our **supply needs**:

As a first grade, we are asking parents and guardians to help provide a few simple supplies to assist in the education of your child. To supplement the math program, we will be sending home math games for you to play with your child each week. In order to play these games you will need a pair of dice and a deck of cards. A box of crayons and pencils are also necessary for the *Math Home Link* worksheets.

In addition, we would like to create a personal library with your child. Each week we will send home a new mini book at your child's reading level. We are asking that you send in an empty

shoebox the first week of school with some wrapping paper that your child can use to decorate his/her shoebox. Your child will be able to bring home the decorated shoebox to keep as the personal library for his/her leveled reading books.

Finally, tissue boxes and Clorox wipes are always a welcome donation to our classroom. Colds move quickly among children, and we try to keep the classroom as bacteria free as possible.

A few thoughts about our **schedule**:

**Gym class** will be on Thursdays, and your child will need to have sneakers to participate. Please have your child bring sneakers for gym if they wear another type of shoe to school. There will be a reminder note on the homework log.

Every Friday you will receive a white envelope for the following week's **lunch order**. This is to be filled out over the weekend and sent in on **Monday** morning. The cafeteria staff asks that these envelopes **only** be sent in at the beginning of the week, not daily.

We will have **snack** time every afternoon. Please send a healthy snack with your child each day. Some examples are pretzels, fruit, cheese, crackers, etc. Your child can either bring in a snack drink, or send in money on Monday morning with their lunch money envelope to purchase snack drinks.

Students will be going outside daily for **recess**. The only times they will have indoor recess is if it is raining or very cold – below 15 degrees outside. Please dress students appropriately for the weather. They will need boots, mittens, a hat, a coat, and snow pants to go out and play in the snow.

**Book Orders:** I will try to send book orders home at least every other month. These books are usually reasonably priced and make it easy to build a home library for your child. If you choose to order, you need to send a check made out to “Scholastic Book Clubs” (not the school) by the due date on the order slip.

**Going Home:** The first day of school can be a difficult and sometimes frightening day for your child. **Please send a note as to how your child is getting home from school that first day.** The note should include the color of the bus and the run number. If your child is a walker or going to be picked up by someone other than yourself, please include this in the note. Throughout the school year, if your child is going home a different way than normal, you **must** send a note or call the office to let us know. Without a note or phone call, I will send your child home his/her normal way.

I believe that a good parent/teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year I will communicate with you through notes, phone calls, conferences, and progress reports. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or if a situation requires special attention. You may call me at school (603) 435-8432, send a note, or e-mail me at [marble@pittsfield.k12.nh.us](mailto:marble@pittsfield.k12.nh.us).

Thank you,  
Mrs. Marble