

September, 2007

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Dawn Meloni and I will be teaching the fifth grade at Walnut this year. I am temporarily replacing Mrs. Fair while she is out on maternity leave. Although I am new to teaching 5th grade, I am not new to the Walnut Street School. I performed my student teaching requirements here and some of you may remember me from last year, as the Instructional Assistant for both the fourth and fifth grades. It is with great pleasure that I welcome your child to my class. I hope that the transition will be a smooth one because your child and I already have a rapport. We are truly lucky to have the opportunity to spend fifth grade together, and I believe it will be a rewarding experience for all of us.

In order to provide my students with the positive learning environment that they deserve, we will be following the behavior contract listed below. Also, I want to make you aware of the grading policies which we follow in fifth grade as well as some important events. Please read on...

As a part of the parental component of the No Child Left Behind Act, we are asking parents to get involved in their child's education. Please ask your child the following three questions each and every day after school. This will let them know that you believe in their education. Thank you!

What is something you did your best on today?

What did you learn today that you didn't know before?

How have you shown good character today?

Behavior Contract

I have listed below our ONE classroom rule, consequences for misbehavior, and positive reinforcements used to encourage desired behavior. The rule is as follows: **All students must contribute to our classroom community by encouraging the learning of everyone.** We will be spending a great deal of time discussing what a classroom community is and what types of behaviors encourage as well as discourage learning. We also adhere to the guidelines in the Student Handbook that can be found in the school calendar. Please review the following information and discuss it with your child.

A behavior calendar has been inserted into your child's blue take home folder. All students are responsible for coloring the **small** box in everyday with the appropriate color which indicates their behavior for that school day. I will initial the large box to verify that the color is correct. Also, if a student is missing homework from the previous day I will mark it on the calendar so you are aware. Parents or guardians need to sign the behavior calendar at the end of each week in the Saturday box. This lets me know that you have seen the

calendar. We have a color coded system which many of you are probably aware of because it was used last year. It is as follows:

- Green – Excellent Behavior
- Yellow- Warning
- Orange – Consequence (chosen based on the misbehavior)
- Red – Severe Clause / Principal's Office

When a student chooses to misbehave, an appropriate consequence will be chosen based on the issue. Situations that arise which are extreme in nature require that the pupil be referred to the administration for further action. Note: Long writing assignments are not used for discipline.

These are some of the consequences that may follow:

- Time out- student reflection
- Make amends
- Call home
- Letter home-please sign and return
- Recess detention
- After school detention
- Referral to Principal

Individual Positive Reinforcements:

- 1) Praise (used most often)
- 2) Tickets / "Meloni Money" (to purchase items at our classroom store)
- 3) Free time
- 4) Fun Friday – for a week of all green or up to three yellow (no orange or red)
- 5)

In addition to the behavior calendar, on Friday, I will be sending home a **Weekly Report** which highlights missing homework, behavior status, teacher comments and student goals. This is a valuable communication tool and it is used by both the 4th and 5th grade. Please sign it and post any comments or questions you have and return it to school with you child on Monday.

Grading Policy

Some assignments may be scored as a fraction. The assignment will be worth a total number of points found in the bottom number. The top number represents the number of points earned by the child. Example: 8/10 - This means that the assignment was worth 10 points and 8 points were earned. Finally, tests, quizzes and major class work assignments will be given a letter grade:

A+	97% to 100%	A	93% to 96%	A-	90 to 92%
B+	87% to 89%	B	83% to 86%	B-	80 to 82%
C+	77% to 79%	C	73% to 76%	C-	70 to 72%
U	below 70 %				

While assignments with letter grades are weighted most heavily when considering final grades, all work is converted to a percent and contributes to the final grade.

Important Information

Homework

In order to help keep us organized, your child has a blue "Take Home" folder. This is to be used to take home completed work and homework (HW). The "KEEP" side is for you to keep at home and the "RETURN" side is to be sent back to me. This folder will be one of the most important tools we use to help us be prepared for class and therefore, must be brought to class every day.

Also, a purple homework assignment notebook will be used by the students every day. I will stamp your child's notebook after he or she has copied down his/her assignments. After your child has completed their homework, please sign the bottom of the sheet. This lets me know that you are aware of what your child is doing for homework. Also, please feel free to write any questions you may have for me in the "Messages" area on the HW page.

Homework is given daily, usually Monday through Thursday, to reinforce work covered in class. Please be aware that homework does not receive an official number or letter grade; however, it does count as part of their participation. If no homework is given, "No HW" will be written in their homework assignment notebook. Please sign the sheet everyday even if no homework is given. A quick check of homework each day, by parents and teacher, shows our students that education is important and valuable. Let them know that their success is important to you.

Birthdays: Parents are welcome to send in a treat on their child's birthday. Please send it in with your child in the morning. Summer birthdays will be celebrated at the ½ year birthday. If a student's birthday does not fall on a school day, we can celebrate on the Friday prior or the Monday after.

Lunch / Recess (12:00 to 12:40) and Physical Education: Every day after lunch, students will be going outside for recess, weather permitting. Sneakers are required for recess and gym class; therefore, dress shoes should be changed before going to lunch.

Special Subjects

A day	Art	Ms. Friedman
	Music	Mrs. Savage
B day	Physical Education/Health	Mr. Santarone
C day	Spanish	Mrs. Abdalla

I look forward to working with you this year to make your child's school year a productive and positive one. Please feel free to contact me at the number or email address below. I can be reached before and after school by appointment. See you at Back to School night which is scheduled for September 20th.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dawn Meloni
856-853-0126
dmeloni@woodburysch.com

Please sign and return the form below to me as soon as possible.

I have read the behavior contract, grading policy and other important information about class. I have discussed it with my child and we agree to abide by it. I will work with my child during the year to help them to grow and learn. I will sign the behavior calendar on a weekly basis, the homework book daily and praise my child every time they have a success!

Student's name:

Parent's name:

Date:

Student's signature:

Parent's signature: