

# Ken-O-Sha Elementary School 2015-2016

September 2015

To the families of Ken-O-Sha Elementary School with a fourth or fifth grade student. I hope to see you at our Open House on September 2nd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Welcome back to school. I hope you had a great summer

**LANGUAGE:** We will be using the Balanced Literacy Model for language arts instruction. There are four components to this program including guided reading, self-selected reading, writing and working with words. Life-long learners read all the time. It is vital to success that you have your children read at home. See me for ideas on how to work this in your child's busy schedule. Each story will have a packet of work to be completed. This work can be done independently as homework and/or in conjunction with class assignments. Packets will be due before the next story is assigned. Stories from our text take approximately one week to complete. More time will be spent based on need or the calendar of events.

**MATH:** Ken-O-Sha uses an adaptation of Everyday Mathematics and Institute for Learning to address Common Core. Students will be required to explain their thinking by writing essays, drawing pictures and showing their calculations to support a solution to a problem. A test will be given at the end of each unit.

## HOMEWORK Logs:

- A. See our orange plastic communication folders for the following:
  - a. Homework log
    - i. A reading packet
    - ii. At least one writing assignment per week
    - iii. Two to three math assignments per week
  - b. Notes from the teacher
  - c. Notes from the school
  - d. A weekly spelling list
  - e. A weekly vocabulary list

Homework will be written by your child on a homework log for you to sign every night. The homework log is the parent and teacher lifeline for direct daily communication. This log will be available for you to write comments and for me to respond. All school correspondence from PTA Newsletters and homework to popcorn sales and conference dates will be listed on our homework logs. We will start each week with a new homework log. Homework logs will be collected and filed for use in marking report cards and discussion at conferences. The teacher version of completed homework logs will be posted to our classroom website.

Research shows that children with a designated workplace will have improved achievement. Please assign a place in your home to organize homework and complete work that has minimal distractions and can be co-owned by you and your child.

**SUPPLIES:** The school will provide basic supplies. You are encouraged to help your child learn how to organize and protect their school work and materials. Please enhance your child's educational experience with colored pencils, backpacks, pencil sharpeners, notebooks and their own reading books. Please limit the gadgets such as mechanical pencils; however, if you spot a bargain and wish to donate to the classroom, this will be greatly appreciated. Tissues, erasers, pencils, spiral bound notebooks, and glue sticks are great items to donate.

**MEETINGS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:** You are always welcome to observe the classroom. Please make arrangements with the school office as there may be legal requirements. Individual conferences can be scheduled during non-instructional times. Sufficient time will be allowed for all the participants to prepare. My number is 819-2650. My cell phone is 540-4735. Voice mail is available on both systems. My email is [brindlet@grps.org](mailto:brindlet@grps.org). I provide a web site to post assignments, announce school events and provide homework help. This can be found at <http://brindlet.wikispaces.com>.

### What is a Split Classroom?

Ken-O-Sha Elementary is designed to be a school with small classrooms. Our teaching staff is well-trained to handle a diverse group of learners. In my classes every student has an individualized plan and set of goals. We learn as a class challenging each student to his or her greatest potential. Expect that your child will get a variety of enriching experiences that will demand he or she excel academically.

Sincerely,

Ted Brindle