

August 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! It is my privilege to introduce myself as your child's fifth grade teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I was born in Germany as a military brat and lived in a variety of locations during my early childhood. I have lived in Alaska since I was 12-years-old and graduated from Dimond High School. I am privileged to have 3 sons: Jack (20), Gregory (15), and Cove (4). I have a wonderful husband John of 21 years. In addition, I am also a grandmother of four-year-old twin boys, Ryland & Colby from my stepdaughter Jennifer who lives in Oregon.

This is my tenth year here at Trailside, and I am thrilled and blessed for the opportunity to teach at such a fantastic school and incredible community. I enjoy helping older children grow into independent students. I feel the intermediate years are especially important in transitioning into middle and high school, so we will be focusing on responsibility, organization, and self-management all year.

My door is ALWAYS open! Parental involvement and support is crucial to the success of your child's education. *It is for this reason that I encourage you to stop by from time to time to say hello and see what we are doing.* The best way to reach me is by e-mail. I will be using email extensively for communication, so I ask that you please check your email often and respond as requested.

If you have any concerns and would like to schedule a meeting before Parent-Teacher Conferences, please give me a call. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Attached you will find volunteer & student information forms. Please fill them out and return them with your child. Please take time to review all information received about our procedures, expectations, and curriculum. If you have any questions at all, please contact me. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Valerie Johnson

Johnson_valerie@asdk12.org

742-5500



Please complete this form about your child and send it back to school. This will help me get to know your child. Thank you!

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ E-mail _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ E-mail _____

Birthday: _____ Age _____ Phone # : _____

My child is good at _____

My child needs help with _____

My child enjoys _____

My child likes to _____

Academically, this year I would like to see my child work _____

Socially, I would like to see my child work _____

Anything else I should know about your child to help make the school year most successful? _____

(Feel free to use the back of this paper)



Please return this form as quickly as possible. Thank you for your participation & support in your child's education!

Parent Volunteer Information

Ms. Johnson

2010/2011

Student Name:

Parent Name: _____

If you are interested and able to volunteer time in the classroom or at home please fill out the form below. For special projects, I will contact you if and when I can use your assistance. Thank you

This year I will be trying to use www.volunteerspot.org to help organize volunteering for the classroom, especially special events. Please respond to the emails you may receive from this website. Thank you

Yes, I can help at school on a regular basis.

I am available

(circle) • weekly • bi-weekly • monthly

on (circle) • Mon • Tues • Wed • Thurs • Fri

during the (circle) • morning • afternoon

I can help from home

I can shop for or send in special supplies for projects

I would be interested in being a **classroom parent** to help organize class parties and special events

I can help in other ways... (Please explain below)

**Thank you,
Mrs. Johnson**

August 2010

Dear Parents,

This year intermediates grades are again using student planners. Many of you are already familiar with them from fourth grade. When used correctly, it is a wonderful way to communicate between home and school and to help keep your child organized. We check these **regularly** for parent signatures and comments. In addition, students have the opportunity to earn money in their checkbook incentive account. *Students should be filling it out throughout the day* or at the end of the day when we review the day as a whole. They should identify homework with clues such as circling or highlighting. As you check it each night you will see what your child worked on in class that day and anything that is identified as homework for that night. Please encourage your child to use it appropriately. When used properly the planners are a valuable asset. **The cost of the planner is \$3.75.** Please make checks payable to Valerie Johnson.

As enrichment to our curriculum, we are adding **Time For Kids News**. At a subscription cost of only **\$2.25** for the whole school year Time For Kids Classroom Magazines provide age-appropriate, engaging reading material for your child. They also include skill-building activities that help reinforce essential lessons. We appreciate your help in bringing this resource into your son or daughter's class. You are helping to enrich your child's education! Please make checks payable to Valerie Johnson.

One last cost for the startup of school is a large heavy-duty tie envelope to serve as a home to school folder called the HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATOR. We will be sending home completed and/or graded work every Friday. Your child will be required to review graded work or information pages with you and to retrieve your signature, accounting for his or her communication with you. This is critical in 2 ways. It gives you an idea of their grades and it also gives them an opportunity to earn extra credit by correcting some of their work and turning it back in on Monday. **The cost for this item is \$1.** Please make checks payable to Valerie Johnson.

We are very excited to use these materials in our classroom this year. Let us know if you have any questions. Furthermore, please let us know if there is a financial hardship.

Thank you,

Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Ulbrich

Would you also like to sponsor a classmate whose family may not be able to afford his or her own items? Your generosity will ensure that every student in your child's class has all necessary supplies for success. If you choose to sponsor a student, please add this amount to your total cost.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Please return this to me with your response.

<input type="checkbox"/> Student Planner \$3.75	Number of	x _____	=	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Time For Kids News Subscription \$2.25		x _____	=	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> "Communicator" \$1		x _____	=	\$ _____

\$ _____

Student Name

Amount Enclosed

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Dear Parents,

One of our goals this year is to develop responsibility and self-discipline. We are very confident that your child can and will be responsible for his/her own self, however, we have added an incentive. Thanks to Key Bank for their generous donation, we have individual checkbooks for which each student is responsible. This program not only acts as an incentive; it teaches \$ skills, and provides computation practice.

Your child can earn "money" for being accountable and displaying self-discipline. These acts include: having their planner signed and filled out correctly, turning in homework on time, reviewing materials brought home in his or her Home-School Communicator with parents and returning on Monday with parent signature, accessing the progress/missing work reports online, returning requested items, reaching different levels of his or her AR reading goals, etc. In addition, your child will write a check for not being responsible and making poor behavioral choices.

At conference time we will share your child's check register with you. We have "gifted" your child \$25.00 to start. Twice a year we will have an auction of items that have been collected by students, \$/or classroom privileges that they can bid on with their money. They will pay for items for which they are the highest bidder. So, needless to say, the more money they have in their checking account, the more purchasing power they have.

Auction items are brought in throughout the year as 'donations' by students and are greatly appreciated. A good excuse to clean out the bedrooms or playrooms 😊 Anything you think a fifth grader would like will be fine (gently used or new), and you are welcome to send items in throughout the year. Occasionally, we will send home a reminder about sending in items.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Johnson & Mrs. Ulbrich
5th Grade Teachers