

HUMANITIES AND COMMUNICATION UPCOUNTY CENTER PROGRAM

Roberto Clemente Middle School
18808 Waring Station Road
Germantown, MD 20874
(301) 601-0381



June 1, 2014

Dear Students and Parents,

We understand that leaving a familiar place and going to a new school can be a little intimidating as well as exciting. We would like to share a passage from *The Te of Piglet*: by Benjamin Hoff.

"Have we reached the end?" asked Piglet.

"Yes," I replied. "I suppose so."

"It *seems* to be the end," said Pooh.

"It does. And yet..."

"Yes, Piglet?"

"For me, it also seems like a beginning."

We are all very excited about the new beginning.

The Upcounty Humanities and Communications Program, Team 6

Media Production

Mrs. Lisa Wroblewski Lisa_F_Wroblewski@mcpsmd.org

Mrs. Wroblewski earned her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Arizona. Although she began her career in New York, Mrs. 'Ski' has been teaching media literacy and television production in Maryland since 1989. She piloted the 6th grade interdisciplinary curriculum at the Eastern Humanities and Communication Magnet Program in 1995. She is also a 2001 Fellow of the Maryland Technology Academy.

Mrs. 'Ski' has provided educational opportunities for her students outside of the classroom. From Toshiba's *ExploraVision* event to Zoog Disney's *Z-Games*, Mrs. 'Ski' has used her experience as an associate producer to bring innovative and exciting curriculum ideas to our media programs. A candidate for the Agnes Meyer's Teaching Award and a three time nominee for the Disney American Teacher of the Year Honor, Mrs. 'Ski', the 2013 EGATE award winner for Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education-Teacher as Leader,

is an advocate for GT education in the public schools and for a hands-on, process oriented, product based multimedia curriculum.

- **Send a letter by email to Mrs. 'Ski at the above email no later than August 22, 2014. Let her know what you're thinking about, what you're reading, what you're feeling, and what you've been doing.**

World Studies

Ms. Cindy Weiland Cindy.Weiland@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Weiland double majored in Psychology and Social Science and received a Secondary Teaching certification from Frostburg State University. She also studied history and social sciences at James Cook University in Cairns, Australia. Ms. Weiland earned her Master's of Education in Human Development at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has been teaching the advanced sixth grade World Studies curriculum to Roberto Clemente students in the Highly Gifted Center since 2006.

Ms. Weiland understands the importance of kinesthetic learning for gifted students and uses several hand-on projects and simulations to challenge her students. These include creating a product for the Market Economy Week and creating a Greek Olympic Event for the Festival of Dionysus.

- **There is not a summer assignment for World Studies.**

English

Ms. Amy Shellabarger Amy_S_Ventura@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Shellabarger earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland. After more than ten years as a small-business marketing writer, she decided to make a major career change and earned her secondary teaching certification through Shenandoah University.

During her time in the classroom, Ms. Shellabarger has worked with her students to cultivate an appreciation for English in "the real world." She sees it as her responsibility to bring books they read and the words they write to a personal level. Ms. Shellabarger believes in finding ways to appropriately engage and challenge the highly-gifted students, allowing young people a sense of accomplishment and pride that is reflected in their work and on their faces.

- In order to prepare for our first interdisciplinary unit, please make time during your summer to read, *Tuck Everlasting*, by Natalie Babbitt. There are copies of, *Tuck Everlasting* in the Montgomery County Public Libraries. If you choose to, you may purchase the book on Amazon for approximately \$7.00 or download it to a Kindle for the same price. There will be a quiz to check for completion of this reading assignment at the beginning of the school year.

Mathematics

- Your math teachers are requiring that you complete a summer math packet to keep your skills fresh over the summer. Please download the appropriate packet based on your math placement for next year at www.robertoclementems.org.

If you received any other reading or writing assignments from your elementary school, they are not required for this program.

If you can bring a marble composition book, it would be helpful for your English class for the upcoming year.