



September 10, 2018

Dear Fifth Grade Parents and Guardians:

Our wonderful, annual tradition of accompanying our fifth grade students to Colebrook has arrived! What a wonderful experience this is for your children, as it serves to create memories that will last a lifetime, as well as provide an opportunity for them to demonstrate responsibility, independence, and understanding. This outdoor educational program held at Camp Jewell allows for a unique field experience during which your children will learn more about themselves, each other, and the natural world surrounding them. We are excited to embark on this journey together! **This year, we will travel to Colebrook, CT on Tuesday, October 2nd through Friday, October 5th.**

Some information about Colebrook:

Our staff works collaboratively to develop creative activities for our students. They will enjoy opportunities to engage in learning in a beautiful wooded area, including the chance to safely learn survival skills and learn about animals through interactive classes with experts. They will participate in sports, hiking, campfires, and the joy of making new friends, whether they are new students to our school or from other classes. They will build their self-confidence as they tackle a climbing wall, and build their ability to support others as they cheer for every member to do the same. This trip is a remarkable bonding experience-one in which students rely on each other for support, foster camaraderie, and build their teamwork skills. Throughout the year, students will benefit from the team experiences as they support each other in the classroom. They will return from Colebrook with increased confidence in their own abilities and deepened (or new!) friendships. We will share more information and answer questions at Curriculum Night, to be held on **Thursday, September 13th**. The schedule for the evening is as follows:

6:00 - 6:30 Individual Grade 5 Curriculum Night in each classroom

6:40 - 7:30 Grade 5 meeting in the Auditorium about Colebrook

Health and Safety:

Tracey Roberts, our school nurse, joins us for the entire trip (day and night) and can administer any necessary medications. Additionally, special education teachers are present to address the needs of all students whom they support. For your information, the camp can

accommodate any nutritional requirement and is a peanut and nut-free facility. Finally, we have teachers with almost two decades of experience bringing students to camp, so your children will be in good hands! Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have a specific concern, whether it is dietary, sleeping, financial, or nervousness (child or parent!). It is common for us to develop individualized plans to help children be safe and feel comfortable while enjoying this special trip. We anticipate that we will have 100% participation from all fifth graders, regardless of finances, allergies, or other special needs.

Finances and Related Confidentiality:

A reminder that the cost of the trip is \$244 (unless prior arrangements are made). We recognize this represents a significant amount of money. Hopefully, the planning and communication from the summer was helpful. We know the value of this experience for our students, but also we are sensitive to families' concerns. You may have chosen to pay for the trip in one payment or installments. Please contact Sharon Snow, our curriculum specialist, for a payment plan or to request a scholarship. All requests will be handled by Ms. Snow confidentially.

We will leave at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. We welcome you to join us, whether it is to wave goodbye or help with the loading of luggage. We return around 1:30 p.m. on Friday. Parents/guardians are welcome to pick up their children at that time if their schedule allows. We are looking forward to bringing our team of teachers together to support our fifth graders as they learn in this beautiful, natural environment. Thank you for entrusting us with the health, safety, and well-being of your child. We value this trust and our partnership with you. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Dunn
Principal