

November 11, 2011

Dear Parents,

Happy Veteran's Day! Never has this holiday meant so much to me as it does today, now that my son, Sam is technically a veteran. He has pointed out to me several times since he has been home, how important it is to recognize and honor those who serve our country. He lost several good friends serving beside him in Afghanistan. His love of country and patriotism is huge. He has an American flag hanging in his bedroom window. This has caused me to think more about my own love of our country and appreciation of our hard-won freedom. We have talked about sacrifice and honor and of serving a cause greater than ourselves. I am deeply proud of Sam and his service. We have talked as a class about how important it is to honor our veterans. I am a pacifist at heart, a sign-carrying anti-war protester back in the day, and yet, today my heart is swelling because I am proud to be the mother of a very courageous Marine. Thank a Vet today.

Report cards are available for viewing on-line today. On the report card key, you will see the option of S, M, P, or N. The option of including a plus or minus was not available to us when we completed our report cards for this quarter. Please know that next quarter, this option will be available and all teachers will be using it. Last year, we had several lengthy discussions as a staff about the meaning of "S." A grade of S indicates that the child surpasses the expectations. We agreed to use "S's" for students who truly surpass expectations. If a child receives an "M" they are doing great because they are meeting the expectations of a 3rd grader. A "P" shows that progress is being made toward meeting the goal, and an "N" indicates that the child

needs to work a bit harder to improve in the area. A report card can only tell you so much. I can't wait to sit down with each of you, and talk to you about all the wonderful things I am seeing in your child. The growth and progress so far has been huge. I am seeing lots of positive things!

I have been asked to remind you of the 3rd grade parent gathering at Brian and Laurie Fitzgerald's home this Saturday evening. They are located at 1655 Sherman S.E. and their phone number is 719-2630. I have attended these evenings and they are a lot of fun. You have the opportunity to gather with a great group of parents and get to know each other a little better. I highly recommend it!

Operation Christmas Child is in desperate need of donations. Please see The Pieces or the gold note coming home today with more information. They are particularly in need of small toys, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. Please help.

Have a wonderful weekend!

In God's Peace,

Mrs. Deb Pieri