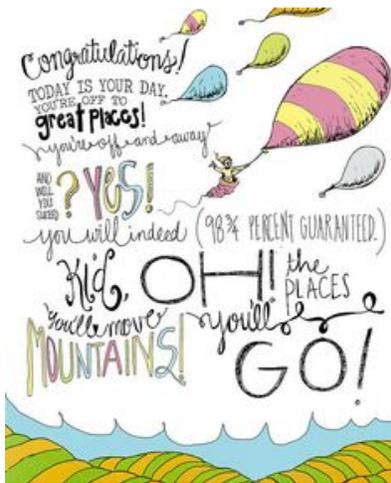


Dear Parents and Students,

As the school year approaches, we are very excited about meeting you all. We spent the summer enjoying our families, traveling and reading. We hope you all enjoyed your summer vacation as much as we did. Now is the time to begin preparing for another exciting school year! Once again, we will be implementing the Columbia Writing and Reading Program. You will soon have an opportunity to live like a real writer and experience what it is like to get lost in a book. How will this happen? You will learn that writing involves more than just taking notes and preparing rough drafts. You will also learn that good readers and writers make a habit of noticing, remembering, questioning and wondering about the world around them.

Did you know that everyday experiences can inspire a good writer? Throughout the summer, Ms. Erickson watched her son play baseball in Cooperstown and visited Nantucket. Ms. Gandolfo spent a lot of time looking for sea glass and heart shaped rocks at the beach. Along with you, we will use the writing process to generate stories about these experiences.

As the wonderful Dr. Seuss wrote:



Let us celebrate life together as a new school year begins. Third grade is filled with new challenges and goals to achieve. Be prepared to learn many fun and fascinating things about the world in which we live. We will be studying different countries and the people who live there.

On the first day, please bring in your supplies (labeled with your first and last name), a healthy snack, and your favorite book.

**“On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, you will join our parade.  
Follow the rainbow to your new room #403 in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade!”**

We are looking forward to watching you grow and succeed throughout the year!

Sincerely,

*Ms. Erickson and Ms. Gandolfo*