

September 27, 2010

Mr. and Mrs. Parent
address
city, Illinois zip

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parent,

I am amazed that the first month has already passed. It seems like the end of September comes faster every year, which means that my classes are making fantastic progress and having a lot of phun (physics fun). We have already covered the first two units of the first semester and the students are collectively exhibiting an ever-growing proficiency with the concepts and advanced problem solving expectations of the course.

I am thankful for many aspects of this year. I am thankful for the great opportunity to work in a school as dynamic as Niles North and in a community as supportive as Niles Township. I am also certainly very thankful for the daily opportunity to work with your child. My students fill my days with great energy and motivate me to find new ways to better challenge and enrich their lives. Most days I am more energized at the end of the day than the beginning, and this is a tribute to the tireless efforts of your child.

I hope that your child is sharing the exciting things we are doing this year. My guess is that you are familiar with the egg drop project. In two weeks, I will be hosting an egg drop “make and take” workshop for students and their parents. Collectively we will design and build a basic egg drop device and will share ideas about modifications. This workshop will be on October 11th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in room 2405. If you are interested in understanding how to better support your child through the projects for the semester or are just interested in having some phun, please RSVP by October 8th so I can ensure that I have enough supplies. Whether or not you can attend the workshop, please know that I welcome family-wide participation on all of the projects for this course. In the past, the projects have served as a great opportunity for my students and their families to discuss, plan, design, build, and share together. I only ask that your child takes the primary role in all of the facets of the creation of the egg drop and every other upcoming project.

I look forward to the parent conferences this year, and I certainly hope to conference with you. If you are not able to attend the district-scheduled conferences, I plan to call or email you shortly after Thanksgiving break to set up make-up conferences. To make our conferences more efficient, I encourage you to visit the web-based survey located at <http://tinyurl.com/26esk9t>. Even though it should take you just a few minutes to complete, it will allow us to cover much more in our short five minutes at our parent-teacher conference.

I am also very excited about the opportunities for you and your family to partner with your children and explore physics. My student-led physics demonstration group called Team Phantastic will be hosting a Halloween-themed open house on October 30th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Everyone in your family is invited to attend, and we look forward to sharing Spooky Science with you.

The first Phamily Physics Phun night will be on Wednesday, December 8th. As in years past, I will be setting up some of the favorite physics activities—there will be labs and demonstrations for all of you to explore and it will feel much more like a museum than a class. These will be available from 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm in room 2400. Please come for any amount of time that you can (most families in the past stay for about an hour).

If you have any questions, insights, or concerns that you would like to share with me, please do not hesitate to call, email or stop by school for a visit. My contact information is listed below.

With warmest regards,
Scott Reed, NBCT
Physics Teacher
scoree@niles219.org (847)-626-2259