The Koback Report

August 31-Sept 4 (First Edition)

Greetings GES Parents and Friends,

I am so excited to welcome you to the collector’s edition of “The Koback Report!” (Our Weekly Newsletter to update you all about the fun learning experiences your child didn’t tell you about when you asked, “What did you do in school today?”) ☺ Let me start off by saying how impressed I am with each student within the classroom regarding their endurance with the heat, kindness in befriending one another, and eagerness to learn to heightened expectations! We accomplished so much more than just academics this week, for example, your child has learned and discussed the importance of R-E-S-P-E-C-T towards themselves & others and most importantly learned that they will be held accountable for their own behavior. In two weeks, we kick-off our independent “Respect Card Policy” as the first few are group practice ☺ I have so much to share so without further ado…I welcome you to… “The Top TEN Reasons Why Your Child Attended Mr. Koback’s Class this Week!”…

10. Your child spent the week learning, discussing, and sharing ideas about RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, AND EXPECTATIONS ☺ We talked about self-respect, respect towards others, and why it’s important inside and outside of school. We talked about holding one’s self responsible and about academic and behavior expectations. We started the group respect-card policy, in which, students lost and earned respect cards as a team. There were several learning opportunities that we took advantage of and learned from those mistakes. We discussed how in the coming weeks, individual mistakes will not be held accountable towards the group, but towards one’s self.

9. We will begin “Mr./Mrs. Impact of the Week” on Tuesday ☺ This classroom incentive allows one student per week the chance of earning the title of “Mr. / Mrs. Impact!” This child will be selected by me each week to sit alone amongst their peers as the role model, as the mentor, as the exemplar, as the paradigm of the classroom ☺ Sounds pretty cool huh? They will be allowed to assist me in being the “Mini-Me” of the class helping me give back Respect Cards to those who have earned them and to sit at their own desk and to decorate it as a teacher for the week! I wonder who will have the “Impact Certificate” on Tuesday?

8. In Writing, we visited the StoryBird.com website! The students found writing a breeze using the idea of allowing illustrations to guide their writing pieces! Their imaginations ran wild as they typed frantically amongst the keyboards creating suspenseful stories that left their peers wanting more!!! Liz Kline and Britain Illgen set the pace for the class, as they shared their stories that heightened the level of expectations for the rest of the class!!! I can’t wait to read more next week!!!

7. Your child was introduced to what we are calling the Morning Message “I-Spy” ☺ Each morning your child will be reading a nonfictional passage that will be displayed on the white board by the projector, however your child must use their knowledge of context clues to figure out each morning’s passage unknown person (WHO am I?), place (WHERE am I?), or thing (WHAT am I?) ☺ In reading, they will also use crayons to make vocabulary connections, such as circling all Unknown Words green and circling all Singular Nouns red, etc… Ask them if they recall a fact about today’s message???

6. Ask your child what they liked best about the first week of school in 4th grade!!! Maybe it was one of the learning websites we explored!!!

5. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all parents that donated items to our classroom including tissues, hand sanitizers, and cleaning wipes!!! They will be used daily and appreciated for sure!!! We’d also like to THANK Mary Ann Leshinskie for donating ice cold popsicles to our classroom on Wednesday and Thursday!!! Believe me, they were really appreciated this week!!!

4. In Math, your child learned about the Math Stations that they will be rotating through this year! They will be solving P.O.W.s or Problems of the Week with some productive struggle, they will be practicing math skills using games, flashcards, & manipulatives, they will be conferencing with me in a small group setting while we practice specific math concepts, and they will be exploring StudyIsland.com and Frontrowed.com to learn and practice even more math concepts on their learning levels!

3. In Reading, the students were told that they will be expected to read with INTENSITY this year!!! What does that mean? It means to IMMERSE yourself in reading…become the character…feel his/her emotions…think, analyze, and discuss….infer & predict off of evidence!!! Read with meaning!!! Read knowing that every single detail counts and tells its own story!!!!!!!! WOW!!! That was INTENSE!!!!

2. They attended our GES Unity Assembly Thursday afternoon to learn about our school behavior expectations and some other very important information from Mrs. Landis and other professionals at GES!!! Does your child remember what each letter in UNITY stand for?

And the number one reason…

1. To have FUN while learning!!! This is what your child’s face looked like each day in class, especially during reading and math!!! See if you can find your child…☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺:0☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ or should I say which one is me :0