



Mr. Devold's Class

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Mr. DeVold's Welcome Back Message

This is edition TEN of my yearly welcome back message where I have the opportunity to inform both students and parents of my goings on over the summer.

Well, we had another fantastic Alaskan summer. We were very blessed by the warmth again this year. I, again, missed some of the Alaska summer temperatures and ventured to a stifling Texas region with my family. We spent time in San Antonio, Houston & Galveston. We went to see what Texas was all about, specifically to get my oldest daughter Anna to the Johnson Space Center since she has a keen interest in space.... Good thing! We have no family in Texas, so it was a strictly an immediate family endeavor.

Of course we took in the many attractions in the locales we visited, and the space center was very fascinating, but for me, the best event was a trip to Old Tunnel, north of San Antonio for some bat viewing. It was pretty remarkable to watch as 1 million bats exited the tunnel on their nightly run for food. That was an amazing experience, and downright cool.

Hawaii in the Classroom

It is commonly known that our classroom is extremely balmy in the fall and spring. It can sometimes hover around the 80 degree mark, most commonly in the afternoon. The location and age of the building helps to cause this rise in temperature and the room becomes stifling. Our room has a southern exposure, and the sun warms the roof and wall all day. During these initial months

The driving in Texas was a bit more hectic than Soldotna, But Houston was nuts! Anchorage seemed so slow when we returned.

Additionally, our family did a great deal of camping this summer, all told I would say we were actually at the house only 3 weeks of the summer. We enjoyed Rolly Lake, Quartz Creek, Portage, Hope, and a Mat-su Campground.

I did not fish this year... again... too many people in my opinion to enjoy it, but I did pan for some gold and found a few of the tiniest flakes. Enough to get me back out panning again.

Anna, my oldest is now the same age as students in my class, so that's weird. Sara is still my farmer, and is keeping 20 chickens. It was a great summer for our family, I hope you enjoyed yours too. Time for a great winter & school year.



I did not manage a fishing trip again this summer (5 in a row now), but since it makes me look manly, I'm keeping this photo as my welcome back photo.

Special points of interest:

- September 1st—Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
- September 4th—Parent Meeting for Overnight Field Trip.
- TENTATIVE—September 5th or 8th—Kenai River Rafting—WILL NEED CHAPERONES & DRIVERS
- September 11th & 12th—Leave No Trace Overnight Field Trip @ Swanson River—WILL NEED CHAPERONES & DRIVERS, ANDFOOD PLANNING
- September 19th—Soldotna Creek & Arc Lake monitoring field trip. 5th to Arc Lake in the PM (Need Drivers.); 4th & 6th walking to Soldotna Creek in the AM
- September 18th (Wednesday) - Early release day. Students will be sent home early.
- October 17th—End of the 1st Quarter—NO SCHOOL
- October 30 & 31 Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Book Orders

Next week I will be sending home book orders. The due date for book orders is September 5th. All book orders need to be turned in to me by then. My request on book orders is that checks be made out to me. I place the orders online, and use my credit card to cover all of the costs. It streamlines the book order process. Individual checks made out to Scholastic are okay, but it does make the process a bit more complicated. Also, beware of some of the things your student asks for. There are some subscription items that will result in a reoccurring payment. There is a section that requires a parent sig-

nature on the form for those items. If there is no signature I will not process the order. Usually there are two or three items that are subscription types. If you are okay with making monthly payments for an item, you will need to also provide a signature on the order form. Most of the items are books and gift type materials, but be watchful for the subscription items.



Blog It

Check out the class blog for any and all information regarding our class. (<http://www.mr.devolld.net>) I encourage parents to check the blog often to locate information or find answers to some questions they might have.

Here's what you can find on my blog:

- Copies of field trip permission forms.
- A Daily Schedule
- Assignment details (Rubrics, instructions in some cases, Requirements, Due Dates, etc)
- General Information
- Student resources for completing assignments
- Newsletters
- Special pages for upcoming events
- Student blogs
- Shared Signup Forms

The blog is a great way for me to communicate with students and parents.

Also be assured that I am not solely relying on the blog for providing you with information. The Thursday folder is still my primary mode of disseminating information. However, the blog will contain class specific information that does go home in the Thursday folder, and may be used to provide information that may have a shorter cycle than one week.

Also, please check out your student's blog. We are using it to post our work throughout the year. You can look at it to see what your student has completed. Currently we are merely using it to journal. But that will be changing soon.

Field Trips & Parent Volunteers

We participate in many field experiences throughout the year and ask that if you wish to volunteer, join us on field trips. If the great outdoors doesn't suit you, we also need food prep for some of our outings. In any event, our volunteers are less in the classroom and more on the road at the intermediate level. You have already received one permission slip allowing us to travel around Soldotna, however 2 more are on the way. One for our upcoming "Leave No Trace" overnigher to the OEC. We will be going to the KNWR headquarters and then out to the end of Swanson River. Also 5th grade will need a field trip form signed for monitoring Arc Lake this year. The form will be coming home soon as well. We will need drivers/chaperones for both the overnight field trip, and to Arc Lake. We will also need food prep/supplies for the overnight. **IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON JOINING OUR CLASS FOR ANY FIELD TRIP, YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE DISTRICT REQUIRED BACKGROUND CHECK.** I encourage you to do this now rather than later.



Class Water

Each year our class has a water dispenser available for bottled water, and each year we ask for money to supply water for the dispenser. The students definitely benefit from regularly hydrating themselves, and they are more likely to stay hydrated when bottled water is available. Mrs. Dehlbom has calculated the cost of keeping our students sufficiently hydrated for the first half of the year at \$20.00. I am requesting each family to send in \$20.00 to help pay for the costs of water this semester.



Boy am I thirsty!