



August 31, 2016

Dear 5th grade parents and families,

Welcome to the beginning of an awesome, new school year! We are so excited to be working with your children as they embark on the last year of their journey at Queen Anne Elementary. We are wholly dedicated to making this school year a memorable one and look forward to the ways that we can partner with you to ensure a year of positive academic and social growth for your children.

We are both thrilled to be starting our second year teaching 5th grade at QAE and continuing to collaborate as a fifth grade team. Last year, we were warmly welcomed into an absolutely thriving learning community and were able to cultivate meaningful relationships with students, teachers, families and parents. We look forward to building upon this foundational work while keeping aligned with the social-emotional and project-based learning components that make QAE such a powerful place to learn and grow.

5th grade is a special year full of learning opportunities that will further nurture your child's independence, willingness to take risks, and empathy towards others. Between our upcoming week-long adventure at IslandWood (more information coming!) and a curriculum that challenges students to understand their blossoming role as change-makers, your children are about to embark on a wonderful year of growth—and we can't wait to witness it all firsthand! Fortunately, our tech-integrated learning environment of blogs, digital portfolios, and Twitter feeds will provide you with a front-row seat as well. 😊

Thanks for all of your support and communication. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Here's to a wonderful 5th grade year!

All our best,

Sarah Goldman and Sarah Abshire

P.S. Now for some practical information – Here are some of the ways that you can “be in touch” with me (your child's classroom teacher) this school year:

- Please know that you can best communicate with me directly via email at smabshire@seattleschools.org. I will do my best to respond within a timely manner.
- You will be able to best keep track of our daily classroom “happenings” by following our Twitter account: [@MsAbshireQAE](https://twitter.com/MsAbshireQAE)

