

Dear Families,

Thank you for visiting our link from Gill Elementary School's website! Below is our welcome letter that we send to each family in August. For current information, such as assignment due dates, assessment (test) dates, class happenings, newsletters, etc., please email both of us to be placed on our weekly emails. Emily.lamott@farmington.k12.mi.us and Cameron.griffin@farmington.k12.mi.us If you do not have access to email, please let us know and we will send home a paper copy of our weekly emails.

Welcome back to a wonderful, new school year! We hope that everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. This year, your child will be taught by two teachers, Mrs. Cameron Griffin and Mrs. Emily Lamott, in a job share situation. Mrs. Lamott will teach every Monday and Tuesday. Mrs. Griffin will teach every Thursday and Friday. Each of us will alternate teaching every other Wednesday. We are both excited to begin another year teaching together.

Mrs. Griffin is looking forward to starting her 10th year of teaching. Prior to teaching at Gill, Mrs. Griffin taught first grade at Beechview Elementary from 2001-2008. She received her undergraduate degree from Wayne State University and her Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. Mrs. Griffin has been married to her husband, Jason, for seven years and has a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ year old daughter named Ella and a 22 month old son named Ryan. Mrs. Griffin enjoys scrapbooking, photography, traveling, and reading. She is delighted in her role as a mom and looks forward to a successful second grade year.

This is Mrs. Lamott's 8th year teaching second grade in Farmington Public Schools. She received her undergraduate degree from Ball State University in Muncie, IN and her Masters in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. Mrs. Lamott enjoys being outside, visiting with her family in Kentucky, and reading lots of books. Mrs. Lamott and her husband, Andrew, have been married for nine years and have three children; Catherine (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years), Grace (2 years), and William (6 months).

We met seven years ago during our graduate classes at Marygrove College. Since then, we have become good friends and have discovered that we share many of the same interests and philosophies. Our teaching philosophy is this: We don't just teach the 2nd grade curriculum. We teach children—your child. Your child deserves our full understanding and respect, and in all interactions we will strive to give this to him/her. In return, we expect cooperation and respect from your child. We also expect your child to consistently try his/her best while in our classroom.

This is our fourth year teaching together, and we realize that effective communication is a key component. We will maintain open lines of communication with each other and with you at all times. During the week, the transition between us will be eased by common expectations and behavior policies. If you should have any questions, we encourage you to contact us.

Teaching is such a rewarding profession. Teaching a child something new provides such a great feeling. Watching our students grow and blossom over the course of the school year is

such an awesome experience. We can't wait to share all of these experiences with you as we work together as partners in your child's education.

Now that you know more about us, we would like to know more about your child through your eyes. You know your child better than anyone else, and we greatly value your input. In an effort to understand each student, we are asking you to please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper, and return it with your child on the first day of school (You could also email your answers, if that's easier for you.):

1. What do you want your child to achieve during his/her 2nd grade school year?
2. What do you think we need to know about your child and/or family life in order to better support his/her learning?
3. Describe your son or daughter: sources of happiness and fears, strengths/challenges, likes/dislikes, hopes and dreams, interests, and anything else you would like to share.

***Please include your child's name, your name, and your relationship to the child on the paper.**

On the first day of school, please have your child bring a baby/toddler picture of himself/herself. We will tape this picture onto a poster board and have the children guess who each child is. We will return the picture when we are finished.

Please also have your child bring in a small, plastic container with a lid (margarine size or smaller). This container will be used to hold plastic coins your child will earn to be used in our class store.

We look forward to a thought-provoking and enjoyable school year. Because you are the most important person in your child's life, we will be contacting you on a frequent basis. Your support and involvement in your child's learning experiences will be beneficial and opportunities to do so will be explained during **Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 14th from 6:30-8:00**. (It is extremely important that at least one parent comes to Curriculum Night.) If you would like to contact us, we may be reached before or after school at (248) 426-2689 or by email at emily.lamott@farmington.k12.mi.us and cameron.griffin@farmington.k12.mi.us. We look forward to meeting you at Curriculum Night!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cameron Griffin & Mrs. Emily Lamott