

## Mrs. LoPresti's Class Newsletter

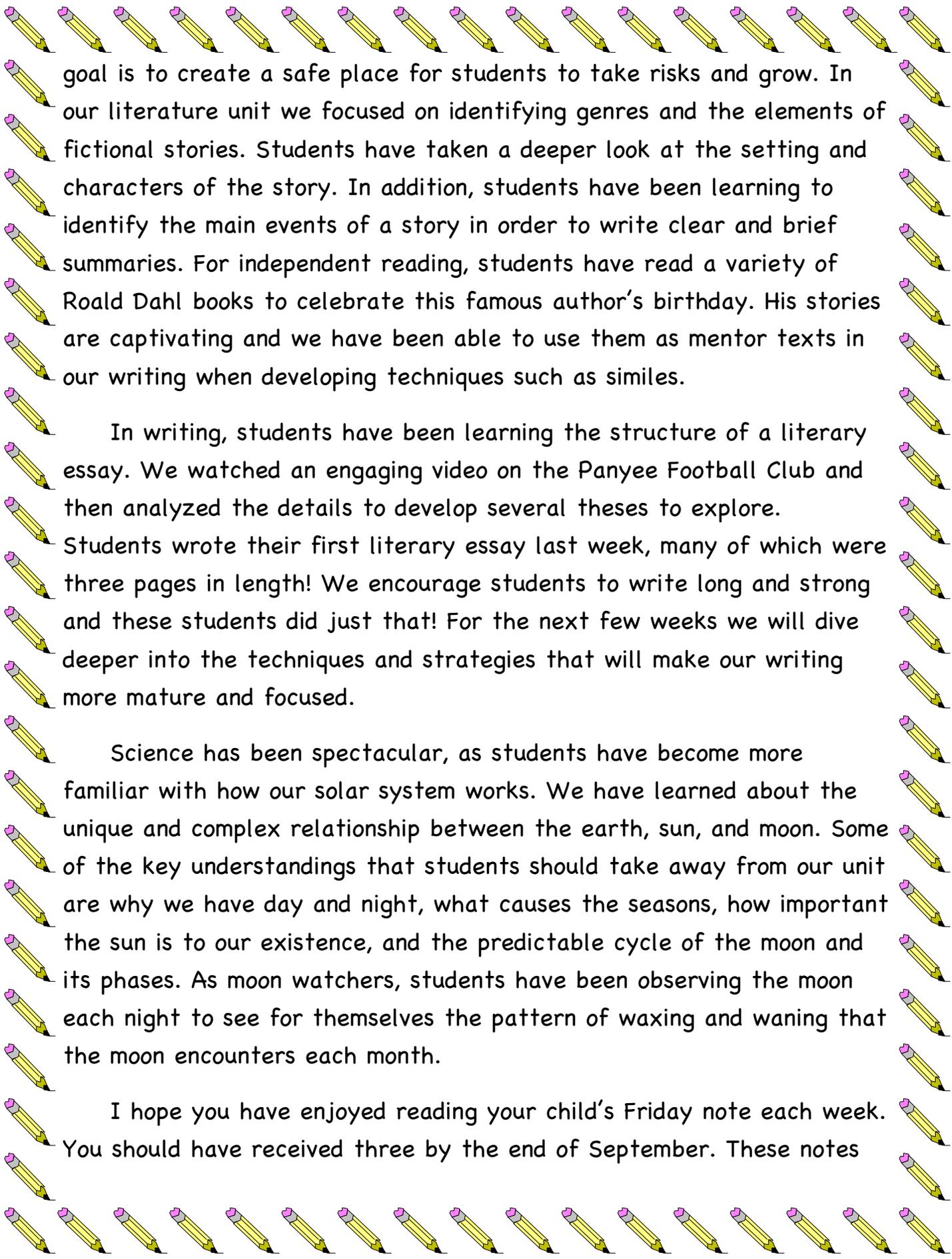
September 2017

Dear Parents,

It seems as though September has just started, but here we are already at the end of the month. Where does the time go? As a teacher, there is never enough time to do all the things I want to do with my students; however, we have been very busy getting to know each other and developing routines.

In math, students have been working in the math program titled Investigations. This program uses an exploratory approach to learning new concepts. Students have really enjoyed the hands-on activities and games embedded in the lessons. As I connect students' prior knowledge with the new concepts, I provide additional bridge lessons to help solidify their understanding of the material. Our first unit has focused on multiplication and division. Students have learned about factors, multiples, square numbers, and prime and composite numbers. In addition, students have developed more than one way to view and complete long multiplication problems and have learned the process of order of operations when tackling multi-step problems. Becoming fluent with multiplication facts has been a target throughout the month, and I have seen a significant increase in each student's recall. They should continue to practice frequently as we will be using these facts in all areas of our math practice.

In reading, students have been learning about each other's differences and how to accept and celebrate them. We are building a community in our classroom that is based on respect and support. The

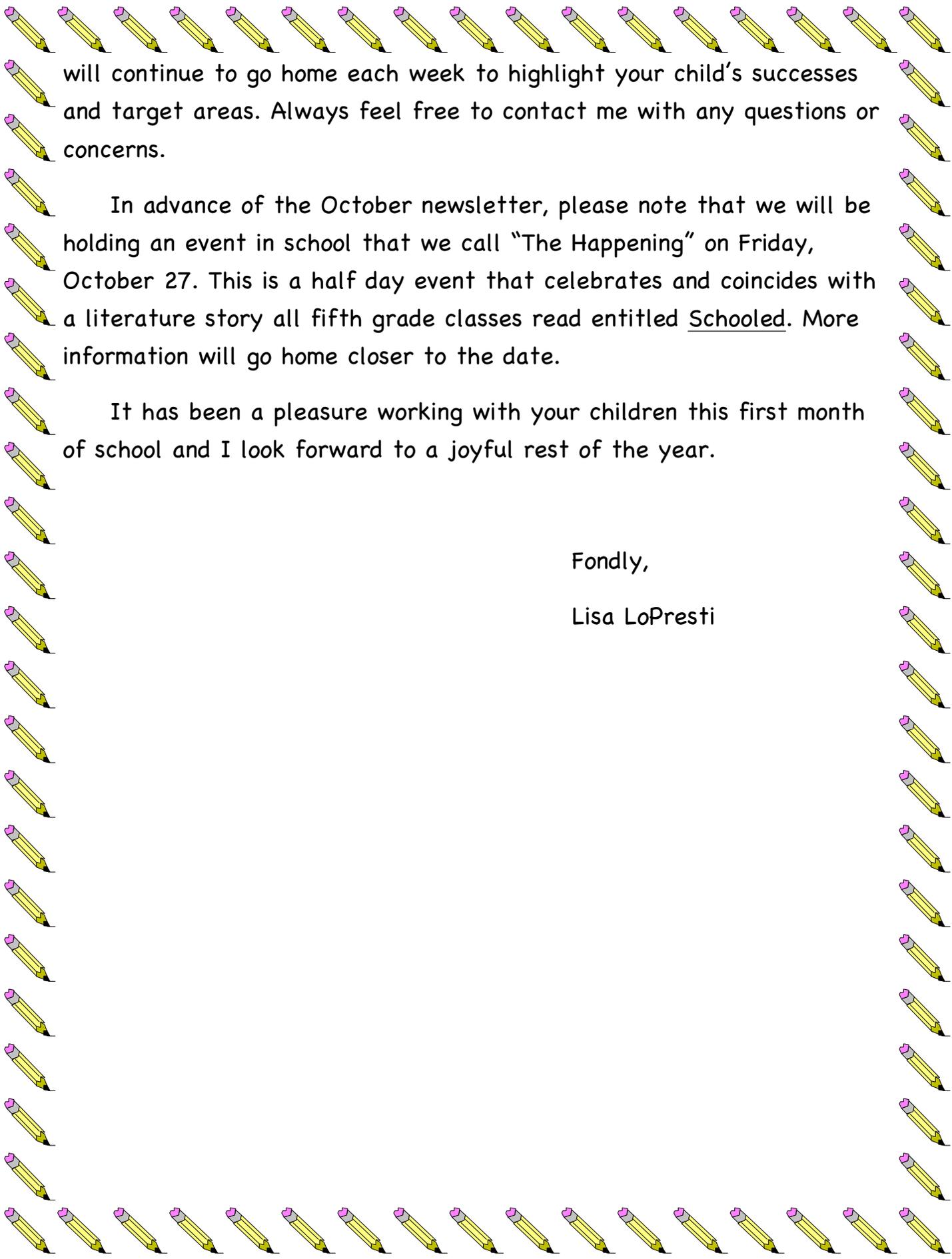


goal is to create a safe place for students to take risks and grow. In our literature unit we focused on identifying genres and the elements of fictional stories. Students have taken a deeper look at the setting and characters of the story. In addition, students have been learning to identify the main events of a story in order to write clear and brief summaries. For independent reading, students have read a variety of Roald Dahl books to celebrate this famous author's birthday. His stories are captivating and we have been able to use them as mentor texts in our writing when developing techniques such as similes.

In writing, students have been learning the structure of a literary essay. We watched an engaging video on the Panyee Football Club and then analyzed the details to develop several theses to explore. Students wrote their first literary essay last week, many of which were three pages in length! We encourage students to write long and strong and these students did just that! For the next few weeks we will dive deeper into the techniques and strategies that will make our writing more mature and focused.

Science has been spectacular, as students have become more familiar with how our solar system works. We have learned about the unique and complex relationship between the earth, sun, and moon. Some of the key understandings that students should take away from our unit are why we have day and night, what causes the seasons, how important the sun is to our existence, and the predictable cycle of the moon and its phases. As moon watchers, students have been observing the moon each night to see for themselves the pattern of waxing and waning that the moon encounters each month.

I hope you have enjoyed reading your child's Friday note each week. You should have received three by the end of September. These notes



will continue to go home each week to highlight your child's successes and target areas. Always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

In advance of the October newsletter, please note that we will be holding an event in school that we call "The Happening" on Friday, October 27. This is a half day event that celebrates and coincides with a literature story all fifth grade classes read entitled Schooled. More information will go home closer to the date.

It has been a pleasure working with your children this first month of school and I look forward to a joyful rest of the year.

Fondly,

Lisa LoPresti