

## Cottage Lane Elementary School – Grades 4 & 5

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In addressing the needs of our students for the 2009-10 school year, some of our goals and projects are as follows:

- To establish an interactive community website so that parents can access more information regarding what is happening in their child's curriculum and classrooms. These web pages will include curriculum across subject areas, projects, field trips, special events, and any other important information teachers want to share with students and parents. Each teacher's web page(s) will be a vital tool for both parents and students to use in order to be more informed about teaching and learning in their classes.
- To build on the process that began last year between TZE and WOS teachers around writing and student work. Our plan is to make a similar connection between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers (TZE and CL) and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers (CL and SOMS) to enhance communication, to better align curriculum and instruction, and to create a common language around the writing process for our students and teachers.
- We will provide professional development opportunities to our staff in technology to build students background knowledge around the concepts and lessons being taught. This initiative will make lessons more engaging and interactive for students.
- Since Cottage Lane Elementary has two new administrators this year, one of our initiatives is to familiarize ourselves with the school's culture, traditions and its history of success. We will connect with the students, staff, and parents in a variety of forums and frequent classroom visits in an effort to build a warm, inviting, and respectful environment for children and their parents.
- We will continue to look for opportunities to connect student learning to the "real world" through actual and virtual field trips. This initiative will help teachers further their work in creating an interdisciplinary exciting project-based curriculum that encompasses all content areas, including music, art, and technology.
- In preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we will focus on the social and emotional skills they need to be successful in a competitive world. We will continue to implement the OLWEUS Anti-Bullying Program and the Character Education Program to help students develop a higher level of emotional intelligence. Some of the specific areas of focus include: Caring, letter writing, appropriate greetings, eye contact, speaking, listening, sharing, and mutual respect. This work will be carried out through class morning meetings, monthly assemblies, and during lunch and recess activities.