

IN A MILLION WORDS OR LESS . . .

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR SCHOLAR!

Yes, you are getting a homework assignment! I joined a listserv over the summer called “Middleweb” that introduced me to some truly wonderful people with great ideas. Around the beginning of August they started to discuss “opening day activities.” *In a Million Words or Less*. . . was a huge favorite, and a huge success. The reason behind it is that it takes us a great deal of time to know your child. Some we never really know. This activity gives you a chance to tell me what you think I should know about your scholar. I will read every one of them. I will not share your comments with any other person, including Team E teachers, unless you tell me in your message that I can.

Your scholar is in for a great experience in science this year. The curriculum is rigorous, but very doable. The overshadowing goal of the curriculum is to prepare your scholar for those “Two Days in May” when he or she takes the science MCAS. My central theme is that “We are all in this together.” Every lab we do, every discussion we have, involves everyone. This philosophy will be best expressed in something brand new this year called the “Mars Student Imaging Project.” The culminating activity will be a proposal that we will submit to the scientists at Arizona State University. If our proposal is accepted, we will actually be able to work with NASA scientists, and use the Mars Odyssey spacecraft to take an image of the surface of Mars to answer our question!

This should be a very exciting and busy year. The key is communication. You will know everything your scholar is doing through my web site beginning at <http://www.ssec.org/idis/gates/States/homework/lessons/cflhw.htm> This page gives you the weekly homework assignments. You will also find links to Internet links we are currently using, PDF files of all the lessons we do, a link to my e-mail address, and a link back to the Gates homepage. We also will have a modified listserv that will give you updates on what is happening on Team E.

Take your time with this, but there must be a deadline. Please get *In a Million Words or Less*. . . to me no later than Friday, September 13th. You can either send it with your scholar or e-mail it to me. You can find my e-mail address on my web page.

Clear Skies,

Charles F. Lindgren