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Dear Parents,

Making improvements is a continuing goal. I am always searching for ways we can make our school even better. We have made many strides this year in improving our curriculum. We have worked to better define our English and Language Arts curriculum and our Mathematics curriculum. Teachers are working on their pacing guides, which will be completed this week. These documents will allow us to look closer at our curriculum and to examine where collaboration can take place. It is easier for teachers to review one another's pacing guides to locate where partnerships can take place among grade levels or subject areas. Collaboration increases student success by maximizing the educational experience.

Next year, we will be working on our science curriculum. Mrs. Ann Roberts will become our new kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Sharon Preston is retiring after forty years of service at Christ the King School. We are happy for Mrs. Preston, but she will be greatly missed. Previously, in addition to PreK4, Mrs. Roberts taught Science Lab. Because Science Lab was a weekly special, it was not always in conjunction with elementary teachers' science units. Therefore, the content of the labs did not always match up. For example, fourth grade may be studying one science topic in their class, but when they get to Science Lab it might cover a different topic altogether. We will be working to align the two.

The plan is for the Science Lab Foss kits to be better incorporated into our elementary curriculum. While we will not have a separate Science Lab teacher, our elementary homeroom teachers will be regularly using the Science Lab for their science classes. Teaching these labs in isolation does not provide the maximum benefits. Teaching them within the context of the classroom will allow teachers to incorporate the topics not only into their science lessons, but literature, religion, math, etc. We know this change will improve our elementary science program.

Again, we are excited about new improvements at our school. Please know that we always strive to provide our students with the very best education possible. We greatly appreciate your support and encouragement. To stay abreast of changes and updates over the summer, follow me on Twitter @psmith\_ckslex. In addition, we will continue to provide News Notes once a month during the summer. We will get back to our weekly schedule in August. Also, watch for our end-of-year mailing that will include your child(ren)'s test scores. Thank you for a fabulous school year, and have an enjoyable and safe summer!

Many blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.

Principal, Christ the King School