



Hi 5SP

8/18/16



A starling  
murmuration

It's me, Ms. Stark, the S in 5**S**P. Actually, the S could stand for 5 **S**cientists because we'll do A LOT of science this year. The S might also stand for 5**S**tarlings. Starlings are a type of bird and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Brookline do a unit called *Bird Sleuths*. It allows us to be scientists inside and outside of school. School should include the great outdoors, don't you agree? Starlings are amazing because they can form a massive *starling cloud* called a *murmuration*. If you want to see a murmuration in action, copy and paste this link from our new and nifty webpage into your browser. <http://stark5spwebsite.weebly.com/super-science-2016-17.html> Soon, the website will also include stories, podcasts, and other information written and produced by you. It will also have this letter and the supply list on it in case you lose or spill something on this one.

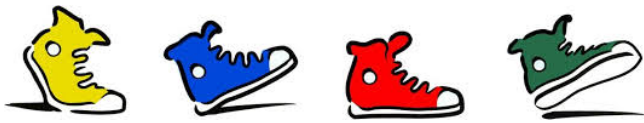
You might also be wondering about the "P" in 5**S**P. It stands for the promising Mr. Plante, who will be our student teacher for the first half of the year, and assist with our radio work and other technology for the school in the spring. Mr. Plante is studying teaching at Lesley after working as a filmmaker and exhibit designer. He loves movies, comics, and games of all kinds.



Did you notice the frog on the lily pad is reading? Like the frog, you will also have time to relax and listen to read-alouds or find cozy nooks to read alone or with your peers. You will notice I have a lot of animal books because along with studying birds, you pick an action project to help animals and the extraordinary earth we live on. In our "pad" (room 302), you will have a chance to take care of two real frogs named Snap and Crackle. They are aquatic African Clawed frogs. Crackle is the girl and Snap is the boy. Snap is smaller than Crackle because male frogs tend to be smaller than female frogs. I am not sure why this is. Do you have any ideas why this is?

Unlike the picture, I have not taught Snap and Crackle how to read, but they do know how to give great eye contact. Speaking of eye contact, you will be learning about eyes this year. 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Brookline study something called optics. Optics is a fancy way of saying the study of *light and vision*. As we learn about waves of light, we will also research sound waves and other forms of energy, including your own energy.

Some of your energy will be spent learning *how and why* our country went from an English colony to a democratically run country. This will help you understand our own classroom government. If you want to change something we do, there will be ways to make suggestions, debate with your classmates, and vote to see what the majority chooses. What else can you look forward to? Here's a brief summary: We have a river table for you to design a colonial village. The river table is also a great place to do math. Math should be something you see in action. You will create your own math puzzles, games, and architectural designs.



When you come into our classroom you will see some shoes on our wall. The shoes are *a symbol* of what it's like to walk in the shoes of someone else. They

are also a symbol for the fact that we will not sit still for too long. Scientific studies prove you learn more when you exercise so we will exercise every day and learn outside when possible. And don't forget, you get to go to Farm School for two nights and three days in the spring.

It's probably about time for *you* to get moving, so before you go, let me give you a checklist for the first day of school on Thursday, September 1st<sup>!</sup>

- ☐ A healthy snack (*and lunch* if you aren't buying). We don't want anyone to be hungry. It's hard to think if your stomach is talking to you too.
- ☐ School supplies found on the attached supply list.
- ☐ Your summer reading list (at least 5 books).
- ☐ A little list on the attached sheet of what you might put on your shoe poster. See the next page for directions

That's it for now. Enjoy the rest of your sweet summer days and gentle summer nights. We will see you on the exciting first day of September!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Stark and Mr. Plante



5SP WILL MAKE A POSTER ABOUT WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE IN OUR SHOES!

FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Begin to think about what it would be like to be in your shoes.
2. Read my examples.
3. Fill in the section below with 4 items you like and what you could put on your poster to give people an image of those items.
4. For the first day of school, you just bring in this sheet. You don't need to collect objects yet. BUT...

If you are eager to bring in something, Just put the item in an envelope or baggy with your name on it. But remember, you do not have to bring in objects yet.

### EXAMPLES!

IF YOU WERE IN MY (Ms. S) SHOES YOU WOULD LIKE OR ENJOY...	POSSIBLE ITEM I MIGHT PUT ON MY SHOE POSTER...
Walking our dog with my family or a friend.	<i>Photo of me walking with my dog Mango and a friend</i>
Playing card games with my family	<i>One playing card from a deck of cards</i>
The smell of lavender	<i>A sprig of lavender from my garden</i>
Playing basketball	<i>A picture of a basketball from a magazine</i>
Walking on the beach & collecting rocks	<i>A small beach pebble I could glue on the poster</i>
Writing	<i>A little pencil</i>
Camping in the woods	<i>A leaf or twig from the woods</i>

### YOU FILL IN THE ONE BELOW!

IF YOU WERE IN THE SHOES OF <small>write your name _____</small> , YOU WOULD LIKE OR ENJOY ...	POSSIBLE ITEM YOU MIGHT PUT ON YOUR SHOE POSTER... <small>It must be small enough it can be glued on a piece of poster paper.</small>