November 12, 2013

Dear Parents,

Next week 5th grade will begin a project called Invention Convention.  Designed to promote problem-solving and creative thinking skills, this long term project will provide students a step-by-step process to invent a new product or procedure for solving a problem.

Students will learn about inventors and their inventions.  By doing so, we hope the students will gain an understanding of the process and be better prepared to create their own.  The first step in the process will be finding an idea for an invention.  Your child will be encouraged to find a problem that needs to be solved.  He or she may ask if you have a need for something that will help you solve a problem.  Your interest and encouragement at this stage will help to make the invention process a fun learning experience for your child.

Once your child has settled on an idea and researched it to make sure that the idea has not been used before, an Intent to Invent form will be brought home for your signature.  Your child can then begin the planning/diagram stage.

As your child begins the actual process of inventing, your continued interest and encouragement will be helpful.  Discuss the progress he or she is making and any problems that are encountered.  Remind your child that although inventors often experience failure along the way, they remain persistent to solve a problem.

Please mark your calendars for Friday January 17.

The Invention Convention will take place in 2 sessions at Westview.

(9:30-11 Papanicolaou, Diaz and 1:30-3:00 Willhoit, Cericola, Hartman).

Sincerely,

The Fifth grade teachers and The SEM consultants