

MAGIC APPLE SCHOOL

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Dear Magic Apple Family:

WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR OF MAGIC! We are excited to welcome our students back to Magic (as usual 98% are returning students) and looking forward to another great year beginning tomorrow, August 20th. Please don't forget to let your child's teacher AND your public school's office know of the days of the week your student will be attending Magic Apple. Rio students will gather at the cafeteria and then walk as a group to our waiting bus (Pinehurst/Clubhouse); Valencia students are dropped off at the Magic Apple parking lot and ALL are met and welcomed by smiling Magic Apple teachers.

SCIENCE: Fran will begin lessons on our solar system with an emphasis this week on the amazing Curiosity rover and the recent landing on Mars. This week students will learn about the sky crane's science instruments and then take a fun quiz. Be sure to ask your student who named the curiosity (not a scientist or superbowl MVP—a sixth grader from Kansas), how fast it was traveling when it hit the atmosphere of Mars (13,000 mph), the length of it's robotic arm (7 feet), and which of Curiosity's 10 science instruments can *vaporize rock from 25 feet away* (ChemCam). We've also attached some additional cool info for further family discussion on this amazing event in history.

NATURAL SCIENCE: Students will learn about all things **Prickly and Poisonous** as Jan teaches about a variety of incredible animals of land and sea as well as plants and fungi that have unique defensive (and sometimes offensive) characteristics. Be sure to ask your student about the sea urchin (its skin is sensitive to light and dark it's spines quickly swivel around for self-defense when an enemy swims by and casts a shadow), the porcupine (the young are born with a full set of quills that harden in only two weeks), and the foxglove plant (the leaves contain digitalis poison that causes dizziness, heart tremors, and even heart failure--*fortunately, this is the very same poison used in medicines to treat people with heart problems!* This will be a two-part lesson presented next week as well with a variety of exciting facts you're bound to hear about!

HERO OF HISTORY: Fran will be teaching about **Young Benjamin Franklin** this week as students learn about this important founding father. Students will learn how he was apprenticed to work (at only 12 years of age) for his older brother (he had nine) as a printer because his father couldn't afford to submit this brilliant child to school. Incredibly, Ben submitted articles accepted for print anonymously—unknown to his brother. Students will also come to admire this amazing American in a number of scenarios—after landing in a new country with only 3 cents for food he still shared his

bread with a mother and her child, how he slept in the print shop to save money to buy books-and how at the age of 3 he read the entire Bible. They'll also learn about his many firsts that were important contributions to all our local communities--*the first library, volunteer fire deposit, post office, etc.*

COOKING: Students will enjoy cooking our yummy **Jam Wraps** this week as we fill won ton wrappers with their choice of peanut butter, cream cheese, and/or jelly and then cook them up until crispy. We'll also make **Ranch French Bread**, involving butter and a small amount of dry ranch seasonings--watch for the recipes!

MUSIC: Our talented music teacher, Kathleen Murray, will be returning this year to teach favorites and some of her own original music. Kathleen accompanies our students on both guitar and piano and our students LOVE their classes with her!

ART: Our talented art teacher, Jasmine Merrit, will be returning this year to share her skills and techniques with students. We'll be learning about artist Georgia O'Keeffe who painted little flowers "in a big way" and then experiment with her style over the next few weeks. Students will be encouraged to use Magic Apple's wonderful gardens and then focus on one flower. We will learn about Ms. O'Keeffe's influences and then make our own "big statement."

POETRY CLUB: Membership is exclusive—and students are encouraged to join-- by simply committing to memory a variety of poems. The poem we'll be working on through September is an easy and fun tribute to the Solar System (***see attached***); we'll start easy so that everyone interested may discover the wonder of poetry and then gradually increase the difficulty (but always keeping it grade appropriate). Please encourage your student to work on this poem--it's a very simple rhyme pattern--and we'll award medals at the end of the year for students learning 5 or more poems.

DRAMA AND MYTHOLOGY: We'll combine a popular Greek myth with scripts so that our students may learn the story of Atalanta while enjoying the talented volunteer Magic Apple thespians on stage. In this myth the men who fall in love with a beautiful young woman must race her for her heart—and it's dangerous because she's the best runner and hunter in the Greek world! Our students LOVE drama and watching their peers really makes learning enjoyable.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: As always students will be encouraged to develop their **emotional shields** by learning the words to posters on Magic Apple's bulletin board. This year we'll be including some important ones from last year, "*No one can make you inferior without your consent*" (*Elinor Roosevelt*) as well as some new ones, "*Learning, it's not homework . . . It's Lifework!*"

We are proud to welcome you to another year of Magic—2012/2013! Jan & Fran