9-13-15  
Dear Encore Parents,   
  
I look forward to starting our Encore classes this week! **Please save these dates** Encore families. You’re invited to an **Encore Picnic on Tuesday 9/29 at 5:00 pm** at Elmington Park (in front of West End Middle School). I hope you’ll join us for our **Encore Open House on Tuesday 10/20 at 5:30 pm** at the Martin Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue on the Eakin campus. You can follow us on Twitter: @MNPSEncore and like us on Facebook @ MNPS Encore. Parents asked us to not do the magazine or smart card fundraisers this year. We listened. We hope you’ll support us in other ways. More information about this is in the Encore folder.

Our Encore units align with elevated TN curriculum standards and tie in with our IB Program of Inquiries. Our overarching Encore theme is Explorations. This first semester K-4 students will study Living and Working in Space. Students will explore patterns in space and how our earth fits in the solar system, Milky Way galaxy, galaxy clusters and the ever expanding universe. Students will become aware of the challenges that must be overcome to live and work in space. They will probe what is necessary to sustain life and is life beyond our planet possible? They will apply critical thinking skills as they work through these challenges.

Our second semester unit for 3rd & 4th graders is Brainettics. This unit will help students train two different parts of the mind to work simultaneously yet independently of each other. The mind will begin to work more efficiently and become more powerful giving Brainettics students a big advantage throughout their academic lives and beyond in mathematics. It is captivating and fun as well. The younger children will also do math challenges and logic games. Second semester K-4 will also be doing a Psychology of the Brain Unit. This unit provides innovative learning experiences that will build students’ understandings of how the brain works and how brain functioning relates to our behavior.

If your child would like a snack, please send one in your child’s Encore folder. Sometime during the school year we’d appreciate individual snack packs and supplies for the Encore class. Individual pkgs. of Cheez Its, Goldfish and chip assortment are always popular. Throughout the year we use paper towels, Windex, tissues, ziplock sandwich/gallon size bags and liquid soap. We earn “**caught you being good tickets**” for great answers, kindness, setting a good example and bringing in things to share: snacks, treasure box items, or supplies. When your child earns 5 tickets, he/she can go to the **treasure box**. Sometime when you’re at the store, we’d appreciate your sending in a few small, inexpensive items your child would like to donate to the class treasure box.  
  
Please read the Encore activities in student folders and initial in the weekly date column. Thanks in advance for reading and signing the self-assessment page each month in the folder too. I’ll be emailing our class Encore news. The best way to reach me is by email. **Thank you for the opportunity of teaching your awesome children!**Nancy Sneed M.ED nancy.sneed@mnps.org Teacher of Gifted and Talented at Julia Green, Waverly Belmont and Haywood Elementary