Mrs. Kelly Greblo

2700 NW Glencoe Road

Hillsboro, OR 97124

September 24th, 2012

Dear wonderful new student,

 As your teacher this year I wanted to take some time to write you a personal letter about myself so that you could get to know some about me personally. I graduated from Glencoe High School in 2000. While I was a student I was involved in Drama, Student Council: ASB, the Newspaper Staff, and Varsity Girl’s Lacrosse. I thoroughly enjoyed my years as a student at Glencoe. All these years later, I even have lasting friends I met at Glencoe. After high school I attended Linfield College and majored in Theater Arts and minored in Communication Arts (I was on the Linfield Speech and Debate Team). I LOVED Linfield and I’d like to thank that experience for uniting me with my best friend, Joe.

After I graduated I held a handful of different positions in a variety of fields trying to understand what I wanted “to be when I grew up.” I was a clerk in a discount clothing store, a studio-trained professional makeup artist, I counted money in a room alone with a huge safe in a department store, a cashier in a pizza restaurant, and last but not least I was a concert security guard at the Roseland Theater in Portland. Then finally, I tuned into my inner teacher and decided to pursue teaching as a career. I applied for graduate school and was accepted at Lewis and Clark College and graduated with my Masters of Arts in Teaching at the secondary level in English Language Arts and Drama in 2007.

But, as usual that wasn’t enough; I had to go back to my roots: Alaska. You see, I was born in Anchorage (Alaska) to Ma and Pa Turner in 1982. I had a lovely childhood on the ‘Last Frontier’ until my parents moved us to Oregon in 1993, I was eleven. I spent my sixth grade year at W. Vern McKinney Elementary, and my middle school years at Evergreen (just like most of you in here). My Mom is a pediatric physical therapist; she lives and works in Houston Texas now with my stepdad, she’s an incredible cook and seamstress. My Dad lives in Arizona during the winter months and Alaska during the summer months. He works in Prudhoe Bay Alaska in the oil field as a British Petroleum (BP) facilities operator for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, he’s an excellent welder. My sister Katelyn is 27 and by profession is a river rafting/sea kayaking guide, “world traveler” and snow boarder. She spends her summers working in Ketchikan Alaska and her winters working in Girdwood Alaska at Alyeska. My brother Grant is 23 and just recently graduated from Gonzaga University with his Bachelors of Science in Environmental Science and Political Science, he hopes to be employed in the Forestry or Fish and Wildlife arenas.

My first two years of teaching were spent on an Indian Reservation on a tiny island in Southeast Alaska, off of the road system, only reachable by boat or small bush plane: Annette Island. I taught English and Drama in Metlakatla at Metlakatla High School. It was one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited or lived in my entire life. But, life up North isn’t easy and I missed Portland so much I returned to teach at Glencoe three years ago.

Barefoot on the beach at sunset, I married (my other) best friend, Todd almost three years ago in Troncones Mexico. I met him during graduate school. Todd is a Speech Language Pathologist, in other words he helps people with their speech and swallowing issues. We live in Southeast Portland in a neat 1927 Craftsman home (it’s 85 years old!). We live there with our two short-hair cats, Zeke (all gray) and Ziggy ‘Tripod’ Stardust (gray with white feet and belly).

When I’m not at school I enjoy: cooking, camping, XC skiing, seeing indie and foreign films, traveling, venturing out for live music shows and concerts, shopping for anything vintage, walking around Portland’s interesting neighborhoods, YOGA!, crocheting, writing letters, reading, gardening, and being crafty.

I want this to be the best year! I want that every year, I think because I have a positive attitude about school and what I can bring to your education (and what you can bring to my classroom). So, let’s make it happen! Now, it’s your turn- write me a letter about you. I can’t wait to read it.

**Be sure to address the key areas below:**

* Your History: Birthplace, places you’ve lived, etc.
* Family: who you live with, their names and ages, what they do, what you do together, etc.
* School: Schools you’ve attended, how you feel about school, your successes and opportunities in school
* Hobbies/Interests: tell me about your varied activities at school or outside of school, your hobbies, your current interests while on this planet
* English last year: How was English class for you last year? What were your strengths and your opportunities as a learner?
* Goals: I want you to set **TWO GOALS** for yourself in this class this year (example: “This year I want…,” etc.)
* Anything I need to know about you: This letter is the place for you to tell me anything I should know about you, your life, your past, etc. I will not share this letter with any of my students. It is between us.

**Letter Requirements:**

* Typed **OR** Handwritten
* There is no required length (so don’t ask!)- If you address ALL of the key areas above then you will do great!
* Must be creative (feel free to use colored ink, colored paper, make an envelope, include drawings or pictures, etc.)
* Follow the “Format for a Friendly or Personal Letter” handout
* If you type it: your font options are – anything you want! (As long as I can read it ☺ ).
* Please have your letter finished for our NEXT CLASS.

I’m looking forward to a RADtastic year with you all!!

Cheerfully,

Mrs. Greblo