

August 27, 2017

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grader,

My name is Nina Levine. I will be your fifth grade teacher this year. This will be my fifteenth year at Duniway and my tenth year teaching fifth grade. I absolutely love it!

I was born in New York City in 1965. (You can now figure out how old I am.) I lived in a nine-story apartment building half a block from Central Park. My brother still lives in this same apartment! When I was 18 years-old I attended college in Minnesota. After college I taught pre-school in Minneapolis for many years. I eventually made my way to Portland twenty years ago. I love to travel but Portland is my forever home.



*My block in New York City (West 83<sup>rd</sup> street)*



I live with my partner Peter, and my two cats. Peter is a writer and works from his home office. Peter also does most of the cooking and all of the gardening. Our cats are loving, energetic, and mischievous. They constantly surprise and delight me. Pip loves to cuddle, hide



in boxes, and eat. Tilly Biscuit's favorite activities are zooming around the house, purring, and grooming Pip.

When I am not working, I love to read, knit, cuddle with my cats, and sit on the couch just thinking. I also love live music, of a variety of genres, and dance. I see many shows and performances throughout the year.



During the months April through October, I watch a lot of Major League Baseball. I fell in love with the Washington Nationals baseball team when I was studying Colonial History in Washington D.C. several years ago. Now I am an absolute Nationals fanatic.

I have a growing collection of Nats bobble heads. I have a shelf for former Nats players, and an area for players on the DL (injured players). Whenever we watch a game on TV, I place the bobble heads of whoever is playing in front of the screen. I guess at age 53, I am finally playing with dolls!



This summer, Peter and I travelled back to Minnesota. We spent a week visiting with many beloved friends and going to Twins games. I also spent a week with my sister in Mexico. The highlight of this trip, in addition to spending hours in the warm, white sand and beautiful, blue water was watching hundreds of baby turtles hatch and make their way down the beach into the ocean by following a beam of moonlight. This was a sight I will never forget.



I enjoyed the rest of the summer relaxing at home, reading, exploring Portland and seeing friends. Pete and I attended many Pickles games and are already looking forward to their next season.

Even though the summer seemed short, I am ready for the school year. I am excited about the great year we are going to have together. I can't wait to get to know you!

Fondly,  
*Ms. Levine*