

Aloha! Hello! Welcome to a new school year! I hope you have had a summer full of family fun and some lazy, hazy days of simply enjoying the little things. Those precious moments seem to be more and more difficult to capture in our fast paced lives. We have certainly been busy on The Farm this summer, getting ready to kick off the 2017-2018 with a renewed dedication to growing and preparing our students for the challenges and unpredictability of our ever-changing world.

The Bethlehem Area School District's top priority is to have all students reading proficiently by the end of grade 3. The district continues to take the necessary actions to help support our teachers reach this goal. We have had many upgrades to our classrooms this summer. All of our classrooms, K-5, are now equipped with ceiling-mounted projectors. All chalkboards have been converted to interactive whiteboards. Antiquated video equipment and computers have been removed from the classrooms and replaced with new Chromebooks. New small group teaching tables have been placed in all K-3 classrooms. All of these physical changes have been made to assist the teachers to successfully implement our new core literacy program, *Wonders* 2017! *Wonders* is a comprehensive reading program that emphasizes the foundational skills of literacy. All K-3 teachers will be receiving ongoing professional development in *Wonders*, and the newest scientifically based research on how children learn to read. We are excited for all of our K-3 students to work with *Wonders* this year. We will be hosting a literacy night in the fall to share more about the program with our families. Date and time TBD.

Our PTA continues to be an integral part of our student body experience here at Farmersville. Thanks to their ongoing dedication and tireless efforts, our students are able to go on grade level field trips to Jacobsburg Park this fall. We also have our annual Tiger Trek fundraiser scheduled for October 6th, so keep an eye out for information on how to participate and support this important fundraiser. I encourage those of you who are able, to volunteer for many of our committees and events that are held during the school year. The PTA will have information to share at our Open House on September 6th, and will also host a social at their general meeting on **September 13th at 7 PM** in our library. We have lost many key contributors over the last few years and need "all hands on deck" to continue making Farmersville the BEST elementary school in the Lehigh Valley!!!!

We look forward to welcoming our students back on August 28th with a Hawaiian themed first-day. Please allow your child to dress in tropical / beach / Hawaiian attire (no swim suits or flip flops).

I look forward to seeing you at our Open House on **September 6th, at 6:30 PM** (Kindergarten Open House on Aug 24th at 6 PM). As always, my door is always open, and I'm only a phone call away. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hilton