As the new school year approaches, I’d like to introduce myself.

My name is Mrs. Katz and I am so excited to work with your family this year. My background is as follows: I grew up in Portland, Oregon and attended the University of Southern California. I worked in government administration for several years before deciding that teaching was my true passion. While I was earning my Master’s Degree in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, I began taking classes at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. After graduation, I taught for 6 years in charter schools in New Orleans, Rhode Island and Boston, and came to Brookline three years ago. This will be my tenth year of teaching and I have taught first, second, fourth and fifth grades. This varied elementary experience helps me deeply understand what 4th grade students already know and what skills they need in order to be ready for 5th grade. Fourth grade is my favorite grade to teach because it is a year of incredible intellectual and social growth. I am excited to help your child have his or her best school year yet!

This year, I will be taking a maternity leave to have my first child. The expected dates of leave will be approximately November through January. Thus, I should be able to remain with your amazing children during the large majority of the year. Mr. Denitzio and I are working on plans to support 4K before and during my leave. First, he and I are working on identifying a strong, long-term substitute who will take over primary teaching duties in my absence. In the ideal, this person will be able to spend time in 4K prior to my departure to have an understanding of our routines and the needs of each student. Additionally, throughout the year, 4K will be supported by our 3-5 Literacy Coach, Terese Clarke-Lima. Mrs. Clarke-Lima will be present each day for the literacy block throughout the year and will be another level of continuity for students during my leave. I’m particularly excited about this collaboration because of the opportunities it will provide for enrichment for the entire class. It should be an incredible year!

I look forward to meeting you and working with you this year. I typically hold optional 10-minute meetings in order to gather information so that I can best help your child have an incredible 4th grade experience. I invite you to sign up via signup genius. You can find a link to this sign-up on our classroom website: **[http://4thgradewithmrskatz.weebly.com](http://4thgradewithmrskatz.weebly.com/" \t "_blank)**

In the mean time, please feel free to contact me at: [Rebecca\_katz@psbma.org](mailto:Rebecca_katz@psbma.org)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rebecca (Bec) Katz

Dear parents,

***For Parents***