

December 1, 2007

Dear Parents of _____

The return of the exciting Globalympics Program is ready to roll out now. It is set up so that each child interested in participating has the opportunity to do so. This is an independent at home geography course, with informal testing done at school to move from one level to the next.

All of the students begin at the first level called Bronze. Once that level is completed the student independently progresses to Silver, Gold and then to Ace. This could take all five years from first grade through fifth. The older the child the more rapidly they will move through the medals. The students that began last year will pick up where they left off. The cards were saved from last year and transferred to the new teachers' folders.

A child does not have to get all of the questions right in one test. If it is a six question test, and they get four correct, they will have the opportunity to answer the remaining two the next time the testing occurs, which will be approximately twice a month. You may see that in your child's own class, some kids move through the medals and the program more quickly than others. That is fine. It is intended to be a fun activity that the kids can do and learn some things as they go along. It may even spark some interesting conversation at the dinner table, as siblings work together to get through the initial levels.

Each student has their own card to keep track of their progress. It will show how many questions they answered correctly, when they passed and earned their medal, and which questions still need to be answered during the next testing time. The "testers," parent volunteers from the classroom, will keep track of all of this, plus the program information. We will keep the cards in a folder in the class so that all of the information remains in school.

As each student completes a medal, he or she will be recognized by having their name added to the large posters in the cafeteria, which have all the levels and champions listed. There will be additional small tokens to give to the kids too. These will be in the classroom with the other materials as well.

Last year we sent the "Bronze" packages home with all the children, this year we are not planning to send packets home, since the kids are all at different levels, it would be difficult to figure out who needs what. You can easily locate the study guides on the [cucinellapto.org](http://www.cucinellapto.org) web site. With one year under our belts kids/parents should have the hang of the program, they will be expected to access the information off the website, www.CucinellaPTO.org, under programs and then Globalympics. We are really trying to keep the amount of paper going home to a minimum. If kids want to participate and don't have access to the internet have them ask the tester for the next level. Copies of study guides are available in the PTO cabinet in the copy room upstairs in the third grade wing.

_____ has asked us to set up _____ from _____ as test dates. This will begin on December ____ and continue every other _____ on these dates December ____, January __, January __, February __, February __, March __, March __, March __, April __, May __, May __, June __ and June __. This letter will serve as your notice to contact, _____, phone _____, email _____ to sign up as a volunteer tester. We highly encourage parents to get involved in this exciting program to expand our children's geographical knowledge.

This year we will stop the program in June and collect the folders from the classrooms to assure an earlier implementation next year.

Thank you,