



Fifth Grade Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

We hope you had a great Thanksgiving. The end of 2011 is rapidly approaching, and below are our December biggies.

Academic Work at a Glance

Reading/Language Arts: In the second quarter, students are expected to read for literary experience and to read to be informed. Please keep track of your child's minutes as Brooke Grove starts the "Go for the Gold" reading incentive program. Each student has their own reading incentive packet to track their reading progress until March 2, 2011. Please make sure your children are reading at least 20 minutes per night.

Writing: Good writers write about what they know best. If your child spots a particularly intriguing picture or photograph, or if your family had a recent memorable occasion, consider encouraging your fifth grader to include it in his/her writing journal. During this second marking period we will be concentrating on crafting poetry, writing to inform, and writing for personal expression.

Math: Unit three of the math curriculum is the study of fractions, decimals, ratio and percent. Knowledge of basic facts and whole number multiplication is essential. Please keep practicing at home. It DOES make a difference! Math 6: We are working on decimals, common fractions, metric measurement, problem solving, ratios, and percents.

Science: We have concluded the first unit in science. The next unit is magnets and motors.

FIFTH GRADE BIGGIES (AGAIN!):

- Every student must have a book to read with them at *all times*.
- Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday (usually) and is expected *on the due date*. It is an expectation that students will use their homework assignment book daily. **Please check your child's assignment book every night**. Some assignments are long-term. Planning how to budget the time required to successfully complete this type of assignment is an ongoing fifth grade goal.
- Fifth grade is a transition year between elementary school and middle school. Therefore, it is important for all of us to help our students foster more independence. For example, we encourage students to approach their teacher(s) on their own with a concern or a problem so that the teacher and the student can work together to find a solution.
- **Please have students practice Study Island at home**. All fifth grade students are expected to spend time working on the computer program at home and at school. We will monitor their progress in the program here at school. The student's progress in the program will provide us with another piece of data to help drive our instruction. In addition, it will help the students to practice and master curriculum objectives and improve his/her performance on the MSA.
- **Please re-stock your fifth grader's school supplies NOW**. This is a great time to replace and replenish folders, spirals, and pencils.

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