



FIFTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

Thank you for your support in establishing our program!

Just a reminder that all fifth graders are expected to read 20 minutes per night. We continue to work on reading comprehension strategies using a variety of text. Specifically, students are learning to recognize the cause and effect relationships in non-fiction text. Junior Great Books offer students the chance to develop interpretive thinking and a beginning understanding of the elements of the plot.

There are many opportunities for authentic writing activities. After reading, students process their thoughts by writing in a Reading Response Journal. In addition, students have planted "writing seeds" in their Writing Journal which helps them generate ideas for writing for personal expression. We continue to work on BCR's and personal narratives.

Academic Work at a Glance

Math: The first unit is Number Theory, which includes factors and multiples, prime and composite numbers, GCF/LCM, bases and exponents, patterns, and word problems (an on-going area of practice).

Math 6: The first unit is statistics, graphing and analysis has been completed, and we are starting unit 2: fractions, decimals, and percents.

Science: Our new science unit is Force and Motion. We have started exploring the concepts in the science book, and we hope to actually see these forces at work through hands on experiments.

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 to be turned in on the deadline. 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 on going 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.
- Don't forget to join the Halloween festivities on Friday, October 28, at 2:00 in your child's class. Don't miss the parade!

Look for your conference letter in a forthcoming Wednesday Envelope. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

Robin Davis
Jenny Patterson
Charles Southworth
Cathy Schwartz