

Fourth Quarter Update – 5th Grade

Here's what has been happening and is coming up in fifth grade...

In Social Studies we are concluding our unit on the evolution of the United States and its western expansion. We have analyzed how the settlement patterns have changed over time, and how technology/ innovation have influenced those changes. We are looking forward to our annual journey back in time to the colonial period: Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown. Students are immersed in the environment with hands-on demonstrations by fully costumed re-

enactors. It brings the history they have studied here to life in a very vivid way. Save

the date for our parent meeting. It will be held Wednesday, May 4th at 7:00 p.m.



Science instruction will focus on cells and heredity. They begin by reviewing the properties of light to assist them in the use of a microscope for viewing specimens. They learn to identify the differences between plant and animal cells. Students also explore the



differences between inherited traits and learned behaviors. The unit connects nicely with the state required health units on family life and human

development and disease prevention and control. Students will be taking the MSA Science test on Monday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 12th.

Towards the end of the Fourth Quarter will bring us to our culminating reading and writing focus on creative writing and memoirs. We begin with an author study about Chris VanAlsburg. This leads into our children's literature project where the students become authors and illustrators and publish their own books. Look forward to the annual Burberry luncheon held at Normandy Farms in June. The luncheon is held to celebrate the completion of our Burberry books. (Some have asked, "Why Burberry?" The Bur- is for Burning Tree, and the "berry" comes from the Newbery award for excellence in children's literature.) This project is a wonderful capstone to the children's elementary literary experience.

Math is ongoing. Please continue to check your student's math journal and section in their binder to make sure they are keeping up with the concepts being introduced in class.

Music this term is a tight integration of music and language arts objectives. The students are setting poems of their own to music they create themselves. You will have the opportunity to see and hear their compositions at the "Music on the Green" event on May 17th. Look for more information from Ms. Siegal as the date draws near.

