

Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Kim

Ms. Mstowski

Mrs. Hilbrecht

Mrs. Zacharda

December 2011

We hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Although it is only December, we are already busy making plans for the end of the school year. Before you know it your fifth grader will be getting ready to move on to middle school. We will be celebrating the success of completing elementary school with several fun activities. We will begin by collecting a baby photo of each student to include in the yearbook. So dust off your photo albums and scrapbooks and choose a photo of your son/daughter. A flyer about when these are due will be coming home soon. We could use additional help planning and coordinating the 5th grade end-of-the-year activities. If you would like to help with some of these events, please contact Karen Ward at wardkk@msn.com and Charlene Midolo at camidolo@hotmail.com.

We are still finalizing field trip plans. Our first field trip will be on January 31st. The fifth grade classes will attend a field trip to see a theatrical performance called Ben Carson, M.D. at Toby's Theatre in Columbia on Tuesday, January 31st. There is a \$16.75 fee per student for this field trip. This is the inspirational story of a Johns Hopkins doctor who was raised in inner-city Detroit by a mother with a third grade education. Dr. Carson is world renowned for his skill as a pediatric neurosurgeon. Permission slip forms will be coming home later this month. In April, students will visit the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. And we are researching options for a culminating social studies field trip for the end of the year. Please note that this trip may cost more than \$50 per student. We will keep you updated with specific information as plans are finalized.

As always, please continue to contact us with any questions or concerns! Thank you for your support!

~ The Fifth Grade Team

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Important Dates:



12/1: Newsletters come home; Make Up Picture Day; Study Circles at 6:30 p.m.

12/2-12/9: Book Fair in Media Center

12/5: Interims come home

12/6: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Media Center

12/13: Staff Cookie Buffet provided by Gibbs PTA; Gibbs Spirit Night at IHOP in Germantown

12/20: Hannukah begins

12/23: Winter Sing Event

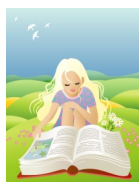
12/26/11-1/2/12: Winter Break! No School for Staff and Students!

1/3/12: School Resumes

Reading

We are continuing with our poetry unit. Students will continue to explore how poetry combines sound and words in unique forms to bring to mind imagery and meaning.

Students are continuing to explore many types of poetry as well as how



a poet uses figurative language to make his/her writing more interesting and memorable. We are also working on before, during, and after reading strategies for reading short stories.

In addition, please

continue to encourage your child to participate in the Pizza Hut Book It! reading incentive program by accomplishing their monthly reading goal.



Writing

The students are finding places in everyday life that poems can hide. They are learning how to choose words that give their poems a deeper meaning. In addition, they are infusing many poetic elements in their poetry, such as alliteration and personification. Their writer's notebooks reflect their efforts in this area.



Science

We are still in the second science unit: **Electricity and Magnetism**.

The unit has students investigating these enduring understandings listed below.

- Forces can act on an object without anything touching the object.
- Electricity requires a closed loop of conducting materials to produce measurable effects.
- A magnet interacts with other magnets and objects containing certain elements, such as iron, nickel, or cobalt.

We will continue conducting experiments in the classroom to reinforce the following concepts: static electricity, electric circuits, conductors and insulators, series and parallel circuits, the effects of magnets on other objects, measuring the strength of magnets, and electromagnets.



Social Studies

During the next few weeks, students will continue their study of the Revolutionary Period. They will review important battles that were fought, such as the Battle of Bunker Hill and Lexington and Concord. They will also compare and contrast the British and Continental armies. In addition, students are learning about how the colonists set up their new government as well as what rules and laws they had to keep in mind to make sure the same problems with the king didn't happen in America.



Notes

- As the weather continues to get colder, encourage your children to dress in layers. They should also bring appropriate coats, hats, and gloves for out

door recess.

- We require notes to excuse any absences that are due to illness or doctor visits. Also, please note that absences due to family vacations are not excused. However, we would appreciate a notice on any planned absences in order to schedule assessment dates and such accordingly.
- Jan. 31st- Ben Carson Play at Toby's Theatre in Columbia. There is a \$16.75 fee per student for this field trip.
- April 12th- Trip to MD Science Center
- May 5th- Class of 2012 Photo
- End of the year Pool Party is scheduled for June.
- FYI for those who want to plan ahead: the fifth grade Promotion will be on Monday, June 11 at 2:15 pm.



Thank you!