

Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Hilbrecht

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Ms. Mstowski

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February 2012

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

Time flies fast! We've already entered the 3rd quarter! Filled with lots of upcoming events, please be sure to take a look at the important dates section. We have included information on middle school registration, health units, and our class Valentine's Day parties.

Valentine's Day parties will be held on Tuesday, February 14th from 2:00-3:15. Class lists will be sent home during the first week in February. We are asking students to decorate a bag or box at home to bring to the party to collect their valentines. Teachers will make bags and some supplies available at school, should students choose to do this activity during indoor recess.

The 5th grade team is beginning the articulation process for the current fifth graders entering Rocky Hill MS next year. On Wednesday, February 8th, RHMS staff members will visit with the Gibbs students and share information from 11:30-12:10. On February 15th, there is a Parent Meeting at RHMS at 7pm (snow date 2/16). Student registration is due to Gibbs by February 21st.

Also, please remember to mark your calendars—the fifth graders will take the Maryland School Assessment Reading and Math sections on March 14, 15, 20, and 21. Science will be held on April 30 and May 1. If you are making doctor's appointments, please avoid these dates. As always, please continue to contact us with any questions or concerns! Thanks for your support!

~The Fifth Grade Team

Reading

During February, students will continue to read informational text and apply strategies to help them respond to Brief Constructed Responses (BCRs) and Selected Response Questions (multiple choice). We will also study and



read plays. Students will use elements of drama to facilitate their understanding. Building on prior knowledge from past years of studying plays, they consolidate their knowledge in this narrative form and strengthen their ability to understand plays. Focusing on elements of a play also help them to determine the playwright's message.

In addition to meeting in guided reading groups, students will continue literature circles using core novels from the realistic fiction genre. Students are encouraged to bring reading materials home to use, if needed. Remember, books must be returned to school the next day!

Important Dates:

- 2/1: Report Cards Go Home; Grade Level and Principal's Newsletters Go Home
- 2/2: ESOL Math Night for Grades 2-5, RSVP needed and dinner is served, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 2/6-2/10: National School Counseling Week
- 2/7: PTA Meeting featuring presentation on parent advocacy by Department of Family and Community Partnerships, 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center
- 2/8: Class Pictures by Blanton Studios; ESOL Math Night Snow Date, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 2/9: Club Pictures by Blanton Studios; Fifth and Sixth Grade Band Concert at Clarksburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/10: Black History Month Event, sponsored by NAACP Representative and Committee, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in All Purpose Room
- 2/14: Valentine's Day Parties, 2:15-3:15 p.m.
- 2/15: Emergency Tornado Drill, with Fire Department Present;
- 2/16: Fifth and Sixth Grade Strings Concert at Clarksburg High School, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/20: President's Day Holiday! No School for Students and Staff!
- 2/22: PTA-Sponsored Spirit Night at Red Robin Restaurant in Germantown
- 2/23: Fifth Grade Family Life Parent Planning Group
- 2/25-3/4: PTA-Sponsored Read-A-Thon Fundraiser



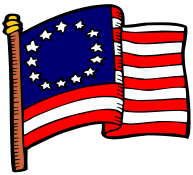


Writing

The focus for this quarter is writing to inform an audience. As students draft, revise, and publish their informative piece, they will continue to refine their writing by using the 6 traits of writing.

Social Studies

Students will continue the second unit titled "Economics: Creating A New Nation." The first lesson sequence sets the economic and historic stage for understanding the need for a stronger centralized government under the Constitution. Students begin with fundamental



economic concepts and apply them to a classroom game based on the farm economy of the 1780's. This helps

students understand the power of economics in affecting many parts of people's lives.

We will then move into how a new nation was created based upon these systems of economy and the Constitutional Convention.



Science

We will continue our third science unit: **Astronomy**. We will continue conducting experiments inside and outside the classroom to reinforce the following concepts: celestial objects and their patterns, properties of light, unique characteristics

of Earth compared to other planets, moon phases, and the orbital solar system.

As a part of this learning process, the 5th graders are tentatively scheduled to visit the Maryland Science Center on April 12th. Be on the look-out for chaperone interest forms that will be sent home with your child later this month.



Students can also begin conducting well-designed investigations that they can share at the 3rd Gibbs Science Inquiry Conference on Friday, April 20th from 6:00-9:00 PM.



Email

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Notes

- 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.



- Our Mount Vernon Trip tentatively scheduled for May 24th, will include chaperones from each class. We want to thank all the parents who volunteered to attend. All the teachers had to conduct a random drawing due to the number of interested parents! A note was sent home with your child during the last week of January. If you were selected for the trip. Should your plans change and you can no longer attend, please contact the homeroom teacher immediately so that another parent may be contacted. We appreciate all of your support!



- We are in need of and Kleenex! All donations would be greatly appreciated!
- Your child has been busy learning and working hard this year. Please ask him/her if he/she has enough pencils, erasers, notebooks, etc. It may be time to restock.
- Thank you to the many families that have sent in baby photos for the yearbook. Please send your child's photo in to your child's homeroom teacher or email it to Valerie Crosby (snoopsurf@comcast.net) or Michelle Foshee (mfoshee@gmail.com).

