



Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Hilbrecht

Mrs. Kim

Ms. Mstowski

Mrs. Zacharda

January 2012

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

We hope you had a wonderful winter break. The beginning of the New Year often feels like a fresh start. Some 5th grade backpacks and binders need to be refreshed a little, too. If possible, please help your child clean out and organize his or her backpack and binder. School supplies, especially pencils and glue sticks, may need to be replenished at this time as well.

We are so glad that Ms. Marshall has joined our team while Mrs. Kim is on maternity leave. Ms. Marshall is eager to get to know the fifth graders and excited to put her teaching skills into action full time!

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 (snoosurf@comcast.net) or Michelle Foshee (mfoshee@gmail.com). Students can still submit t-shirt designs for the 5th grade class t-shirt through January 10th. If you are able to help plan and/or coordinate some of the fifth grade end of year events, please contact Karen Ward at wardkk@msn.com and Charlene Midolo at camidolo@hotmail.com.

On Tuesday, January 31st we will go on our field trip to Toby's Theatre in Columbia. The students will see a theatrical performance about Ben Carson, M.D.'s life. The play will chronicle Dr. Carson's life from his childhood in inner-city Detroit to his accomplishments as a world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins. If you have not returned the permission slip and payment yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Also, please mark your calendars—the fifth graders will take the Maryland School Assessment (Reading and Math) on March 14, 15, 20, and 21. If you are making doctor's appointments, please when possible avoid these dates.

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

~The Fifth Grade Team

Important

Dates:



January 2nd: Holiday! No School for Students and Staff
January 3rd: School resumes; Grade Level Newsletters Come Home: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center. The Literacy School Committee will have a presentation for parents.
January 16th: Holiday! Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! No School for Students and Staff
January 18th: PTA-sponsored Spirit Night at Longhorn Steakhouse in Germantown
January 20th: Second Marking Period Ends
January 23rd: No School for Students! Report Card Preparation Day for Teachers
January 24th: Third Marking Period Begins; Principal's Coffee, 7:00 -8:00 p.m.
January 27th: Family, Fun, and Fitness Night!
January 30th: Hearing and Vision Screening for all Kindergarteners, First Grade Students, and Students new to MCPS
January 31st: Hearing and Vision Screening for all Kindergarteners, First Grade Students, and Students new to MCPS; Fifth Grade Field Trip, 10:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Reading

Throughout January, students will be reading to be informed. We will review effective use of before, during, and after reading strategies. Students will also review effective test taking strategies. Students will gain skills to answer selected response questions and Brief Constructed Responses. Students will also use "smart cookie" phrases to help them cite evidence from the text and will use a rubric to score responses.

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.



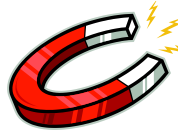
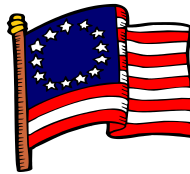
Writing

During the last few weeks of the second quarter, students will learn how to write organized, informative pieces. We will practice drafting paragraphs that have a clear topic sentence, several supporting detail sentences and a strong concluding sentence. As students develop these skills they will share their passion and expertise about a subject that they know a lot about. The topic can be a hobby or activity that they enjoy or holiday or celebration special to their family or culture. Please talk with your child about possible topics that he/she knows a great of information about.



Social Studies

Throughout this month, fifth graders will apply their reading strategies to help them understand informational texts. Students will learn about some of the important battles of the American Revolution. They will understand the challenges faced by the Continental Army as it faced the British Army. Students will also begin 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.



Science

We will wrap up the second science unit: **Electricity and Magnetism** during January. 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. Students may also begin conducting well-designed investigations that they can share at the Gibbs Science Inquiry Conference on Friday, April 20th .



Notes

- As the weather continues to be cold, encourage your children to dress in layers. They should also bring appropriate coats, hats, and gloves for outdoor 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.
- Please note that we are researching options for a culminating social studies field trip for the end of the year. Please note that this trip may be more than \$50 per student. We will keep you updated with specific information. If you have any financial concerns, please contact your child's teacher.
- FYI for those who want to plan ahead: the fifth grade Promotion will be on Monday, June 11 at 2:15 pm.
- Thank you for your continued support!

Email

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