



Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Hilbrecht

Mrs. Kim

Ms. Mstowski

Mrs. Zacharda

November 2011

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

Thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for all their hard work in preparing our wonderful Halloween parties! All of our students had a wonderful time and it was a great way to celebrate the end of our first quarter in fifth grade! Our parents rock!

The end of the first quarter also means time for report cards and parent conferences. Report cards come home Thursday, November 10th. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have not scheduled (or misplaced) your parent conference time.

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

~The Fifth Grade Team

Mrs. Hilbrecht's email: Raegan_M_Hilbrecht@mcpsmd.org

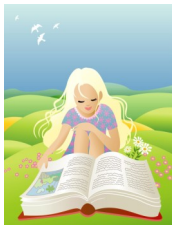
Mrs. Kim's email: Hye_R_Kim@mcpsmd.org

Ms. Mstowski's email: Patricia_Mstowski@mcpsmd.org

Mrs. Zacharda's email: Rebecca_J_Wukitch@mcpsmd.org

Reading

In the second quarter, we will begin our next unit on poetry. Students will explore how poetry combines sound and words in unique forms to bring to mind imagery and meaning. Poetry also



helps readers see their familiar world in a new way.

We will explore many different poems and identify how a poet uses figurative language to make his/her

writing more interesting and memorable. Students will explore poetic terms, such as metaphor, simile, personification, mood, alliteration, onomatopoeia, etc. They will reflect on how knowing these characteris-

Important

Dates:



Nov. 1—2nd Marking Period begins, Newsletters go home, PTA Meeting 6:30pm

Nov. 3—Study Circles Session 2, 6:30pm

Nov. 4—Identakid program 10:45am

Nov. 10—Flag Ceremony w/ American Legion 9:30am, Report cards go home, Flyer Distribution, **Early Dismissal 1pm** & Parent conferences, Study Circle Session 3, 6:30pm

Nov. 11—**Early Dismissal 1pm** & Parent conferences

Nov. 17—Study Circle Session 4, 6:30pm

Nov. 18—PTA Turkey BINGO 6:30-9pm

Nov. 21—Grandparents' Day Tea 9:30-11am

Nov. 23—**Early Dismissal 1pm**

Nov. 24 & 25—**No school:** Thanksgiving

Nov. 29—Chorus Concert 7pm @ Gibbs

tics of poetry helps them to understand the message of the poem.

Writing

Last quarter, the students began to use a writer's notebook as a tool for living a "writerly" life. We worked through the writing process and published personal narratives. This quarter, we will conduct an in-depth study of poetry



to correspond with our reading objectives.

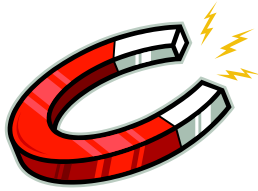
We will investigate different forms of poetry and analyze the use of figurative language. One of our goals will be to move our students beyond thinking that all poems have to rhyme. Students will then write and publish some of their own poems.

Science

Our next science unit is on **Electricity and Magnetism**. We will be exploring the following questions throughout this unit:

- How can something

change its motion if nothing touches it?

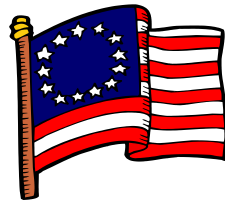


- How does a circuit work?
- How does a magnet interact with other objects?

Students will conduct investigations using static electricity, electric circuits, circuit testers, and conductors and insulators in order to answer these essential questions.

Social Studies

During the next few weeks, students will continue their study of the Revolutionary Period. They will analyze how the colonists made the dangerous leap from working outside the



British political system to going to war to create a new, independent nation. Students will use symbols, slogans, songs, and quotations from the newly created nation to better understand the fundamental principles central to the **Declaration of Independence** and the American political system today.

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 outdoor recess.
- The month of November has several **Early Release days**. Please send in a note with any changes to regular dismissal procedures for those days.
- We require notes to excuse any absences that are due to illness or doctor visits. Absences for family vacations are not excused. However, we appreciate notices on planned absences in order to schedule assessments and such accordingly. Thank you!
- Remember, applications for the Roberto Clemente Middle School Center must be postmarked by November 7, 2011.

