



Fifth Grade News

William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School

Mrs. Hilbrecht

Mrs. Kim

Ms. Mstowski

Mrs. Zacharda

October 2011

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

We are so pleased to have met so many of you at Back-to-School night! In the coming weeks, please be sure to sign up for a conference time for the November dates with your homeroom teacher.

With October comes the excitement of the holiday season. Halloween parties will be held from 2:15pm-3:15pm on Friday, October 28th.. If you prefer your child to not participate, please send in a note so that other arrangements may be made for that block of time.

~The Fifth Grade Team

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Reading

Fifth graders are now beginning their literature circles with an accompany novel. They have learned their roles and responsibilities to participate in these "book

clubs." As we conclude our focus on historical fiction, we will spend some time on MCPS—approved Junior Great Books texts focusing on vocabulary and question development.

We will begin

focusing on informational texts mid-October, with the aim to develop strategies for reading and identifying this genre.

Please continue to focus on the Reading 25 goal! This means that they will



Important Dates:

- 10/3/11: Interim Progress Reports Come Home; Grade Level Newsletters Come Home
- 10/4/11: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center
- 10/5/11: Walk Your Child to School Day
- 10/6/11: Study Circles Information Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center
- 10/10/11: Parent Visitation Day from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- 10/12/11: Kindergarten Field Trip to Butler's Orchard from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- 10/13/11: Gibbs ES Math/Literacy Night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 10/15/11: PTA Fun Run at Gibbs ES beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- 10/19/11: Principal's Coffee from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Media Center; PTA Spirit Night at Baja Fresh
- 10/20/11: Study Circles Session 1 in the Media Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- 10/21/11: No School For Teachers and Students (Maryland Teacher Convention Day)
- 10/27/11: Individual Student Picture Day by Blanton Studios; Study Circles Session 2 in the Media Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

read approximately six books per quarter to reach their goal. Please continue to encourage your child to read on a daily basis so he/she will accomplish this goal.

Writing

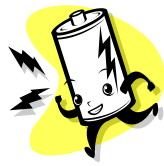
We are beginning to write and revise our personal expression pieces. Writing for Personal Expression is the focus of the first quarter. Students have been practicing writing

personal narratives in focused mini-lessons.

They will continue to build and refine these

skills. Students will continue to speak and think like writers by applying the Six Plus One Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation). Students will examine other writers' pieces and apply techniques that effective writers use. Students will actively use their writers' notebooks to generate ideas and record inspirations.

Science



The first unit of fifth grade science is **Force, Motion, and Energy**. Students have been

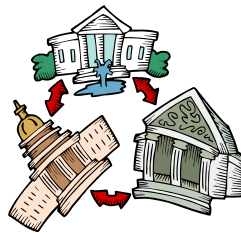
and will continue to explore the following questions throughout the unit:

- How do we describe an object's change in motion?
- What causes an object to change its motion?
- How is energy identified in various mechanical systems?
- How do humans use the stored energy from Earth's natural resources?

Students will complete experiments, view videos, and use textbooks to explore these questions.

Social Studies

Having learned about the three branches of government, the students will now begin to focus on how citizens create change. We have begun learning about British policies during the Revolutionary period to understand why colonists worked within and outside the British Royal Government to



create change.



Notes

As the weather begins to change, please encourage your child to bring a jacket or sweater to school that can be taken on and off during the day as needed.

The application process for the Roberto Clemente Middle School Center has begun. Applications are available through Mr. McCord, school counselor or by visiting www.Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/schoolchoice.

The Roberto Clemente Middle School Center offers two rigorous programs of academic study to highly gifted students from the upper portion of the Montgomery County. Both programs feature an interdisciplinary approach in multiple subject areas. Students may apply to both programs, but may only participate in one. The two programs offered are Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science; and Humanities and Communication. Magnet choice application forms are due November 7th. An informational meeting will be held at Roberto Clemente MS on Thursday, October 13th at 7:00