

Fifth Grade News

November, 2011

Reading and Language Arts:

1. We are completing the novel, "The Sign of the Beaver", by Elizabeth George Speare using the comprehension strategy of flagging important ideas and vocabulary with Post-It notes. Through literature discussions and writing, we will explore the differences between the main characters and how they were able to break through cultural barriers and develop a deep friendship and respect for one another. We will complete the novel test which is composed of short answers, two BCR's and one essay. Our next core novel will be "Number the Stars", by Lois Lowry, and "Waiting for Anya", by Michael Morpurgo. Both novels deal with World War II and the Nazi Occupation of Europe.
2. Students continue to practice non-fiction comprehension through the completion of their Weekly Reader magazine, the social studies text, "History Alive", and related articles.
3. Using the writing process of drafting, conferencing, editing, and revising, students are working on a "surprise" Thanksgiving writing assignment that will be due on November 21, 2011. Students also continue to write about their personal experiences in their daily journal.
4. Our next writing project will be a journalism unit in which students will write articles for a newspaper front page, followed by a celebration called "Newspaper Day".

Social Studies

We are focusing on the eras, movements, and turning points of U.S. History (1750-present day). Students will complete a "turning point" project in which they will summarize an important turning point in American history and create an illustration on the computer program, Image Blender. Next, we will study the events that lead up to the American Revolution, paying particular attention to the Boston Massacre. Students will examine primary and secondary sources and write a persuasive essay on the focus question: "Who is to blame for the deaths in the Boston Massacre: the British soldiers or the Boston colonists?"

Math 5

As we embark on our 2nd quarter, our second unit on Plane Geometry is well underway. Students have learned how to identify polygons, find missing interior angles of polygons, draw angles, measure angles and how to effectively use protractors and compasses. Some students have even learned how to bisect angles. Students will have their first formative assessment Friday November 4th

Math 6

In math, the students completed the first formative assessment for Unit 2. A large focus of the initial part of the unit was on multiplying and dividing decimals. The process is the same as what the students learned in the past, but now they need to decide the location of the decimal. These

computations were also applied to story problems. Conversions of units in both the metric and the customary units were another main topic. The students have recently been converting between decimals and fractions. They will also apply these concepts as they find the perimeter and area of different figures.

The next unit test is scheduled to begin on November 8th. A review sheet will go home soon. This will be a mid-unit exam for Unit 2, which continues for some time.

Science

The students completed the unit exam for Unit 1 - Force, Motion, and Energy. We are beginning Unit 2 - Electricity and Magnetism. Students will soon be learning about static electricity and what cause it. Then, students will begin to learn about electric circuits. Students will explore different circuits (parallel and series) and how each is different. Students will learn:

- 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.

By the end of the unit, students will be able to discuss and answer the following:

- How can something change its motion if nothing touches it?
- How does a circuit work?
- How does a magnet interact with other objects?

Fifth Grade Events

November

4th - Fifth Grade Parent Breakfast with Ms. Stevens at 9:30

10th and 11th - Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Conferences (please contact the teacher if you still need to schedule a conference)

23rd - Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving

24th & 25th - Thanksgiving Holiday

December

15th - Field trip to Beall-Dawson house (Ott and Kouwenberg)

16th - Field trip to Beall-Dawson house (Corrigan and Vicino)

24th - Winter Break begins (school resumes January 3rd)