

# FIFTH GRADE TIMES, October 2011

## **Reading**

Students have started reading one of three novels, *Sign of the Beaver*, *The Little House in the Big Woods*, or *Class President*. They are participating in literature circles, creating margin notes, and learning how to respond to what they have read by creating written BCR's (Brief Constructed Responses).

## **Language Arts**

Students have finished their 'getting-know- you' BioPoems & illustrations as displayed on Back-To-School-Night, and they have turned in their friendly letters to their teachers. They are now underway with writing their artifact paragraphs for the *Artifact Museum which will be held on Monday, October 10, 2011*. ALL students were provided with samples, graphic organizers, rubrics, and a chance to self, peer & teacher edit their paragraphs. Next, we will be focusing on narrative writing and journalistic styles of writing in upcoming assignments.

## **Spelling**

Students are participating in either the *Worldly Wise*, vocabulary enrichment program or the *SuperSpellers*, spelling rule development program. Work is due and tests are given every other Tuesday (Kouwenberg & Ott) or Wednesday (Corrigan & Vicino).

## **Grammar**

Students participate in a daily oral language lesson, and they are quizzed regularly on the items taught. Please ask to see their journals & quizzes.

## **Social Studies**

Students will continue to learn about the three branches of U.S. Government, and the five rights of U.S. citizens written in the U.S. Constitution as seen in local, state, and federal case studies. Next, we will be examining & analyzing pre-revolutionary events leading up to the American Revolution.

## **Math 5**

Our first unit in math is more than halfway done! Our unit kicked off with the divisibility rules. In order to solidify these concepts, students participated in Readers Theatre. Throughout the semester, we will continue to hold "rehearsals" and even go "on tour," presenting the script on divisibility to other classes. We used these rules to find the LCM and GCF of given numbers and to determine if a number is prime or composite. Students then used exponents to simplify prime factorization and have learned how to add and subtract negative and positive integers. We are currently working on writing expressions, completing function tables and graphing functions on a coordinate plane. If we stay on schedule the unit test will begin on Friday, October 14.

## **Math 6**

The first Unit Test was administered and graded this week. The students brought home a grade reflection sheet today that needs to be shared with you. As a culminating project to our graphing data unit, the students are making a graph to display a set of data and analyzing the data. We will start Unit Two on Monday. The general topics are 1) Decimal Operations and 2) Decimal and Fraction Connections. We will spend time multiplying and dividing decimals and converting between different measurement units. The unit also requires the students to apply the concepts to many different problem-solving situations. The Unit 2AB Formative will be approximately October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Science**

The first unit – Force, Motion, and Energy – is “rolling” right along. The students have learned and applied many concepts related to physics.

- A force is a push or a pull.
- Speed equals distance divided by time. Students figured out the speed of various objects using the formula.
- Three types of motion
  - Uniform – same speed and same direction
  - Variable – different speed or different direction or both
  - Periodic – motion repeats over and over
- To know that an object is moving, it must be compared to a frame of reference that is known to be not moving.
- The students will next be learning about gravity, friction, and the **relationships** between force and mass.
- The Unit 1 Test is planned for October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. These dates may change slightly. Students were given an assessment as a check point for these concepts. The assessments were graded and passed back this week.

## **Fifth Grade Events**

### **October**

10<sup>th</sup> – Artifact Museum

- Parents encouraged to join us in the All Purpose Room from 9:45 AM to 11:30 AM
- Dr. Starr’s Listen and Learn event at B-CC from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

12<sup>th</sup> – Strathmore Field Trip

14<sup>th</sup> – Individual school photos

21<sup>st</sup> – No School

28<sup>th</sup> – End of First Quarter

- Halloween Parties

31<sup>st</sup> – No School (Teachers complete grades)

### **November**

4<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Grade Parent Breakfast with Ms. Stevens at 9:30 AM

10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Conferences (please contact the teacher if you still need to schedule a conference)