

Second Quarter, 2006

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

The fifth grade teachers continue to do all that we can to help your child be successful in meeting and/or exceeding our high expectations. The purpose of this letter is to provide information about the second quarter curricular intents.

In Reading for Literary Experience, students will examine the characteristics of poetry. Figurative language will be analyzed. Opportunities will be provided for comparing different types of poetry. Also, we will study a variety of books written by the same author. In Reading to be Informed, students will engage in biographical research. Test taking skills will be interspersed throughout the quarter.

Students will write to express personal ideas through poetry. The Six + One Writing Traits will be our instructional focus. Please continue to encourage your child to write and share ideas at home.

The Spelling text is Wordly Wise 3000 or an adapted Orton-Gillingham spelling program to meet your child's needs. The weekly list words will be introduced on Monday. Homework exercises will be assigned through Thursday. A practice Spelling test is suggested on Thursday evening. The Spelling test is on Friday. Students are encouraged to take their Spelling notebooks home to share with you. Notebooks should be returned to class by Wednesday.

Students in Grade 5 Math will be able to identify and describe the properties of two- and three- dimensional figures. They will use protractors to measure angles and compasses to draw circles. Investigations will be made to identify the relationships between the radius, the diameter, and the circumference. Math A students will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals and fractions. Simple algebraic expressions and simple formulas will be evaluated. Detailed letters will be sent home during the quarter.

In the first unit of Social Studies, Citizens in Action: The Colonies Revolt, students are studying how citizens have created change throughout United States history by working within, as well as, outside of the government. We will then move back to the Revolutionary Period (1763-1783) to discover how and why the colonists declared independence from Great Britain to create a new political system.

The Structures unit in Science will give students the opportunity to design, plan, and construct bridges and other items in response to a particular need or problem.

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis. Please check your child's "Student Assignment Book" or S.A.B. each day. Your child should be making daily entries. Each child should read a minimum of twenty minutes each evening in order to reach the end-of-the-year goal of twenty-five books. Your signature or initials in the S.A.B. and Take Home Reader will let us know that the requirements have been met. We will try to maintain the county mandated homework time of 45 to 60 minutes per school night.

The goals for Learning Skills continue to be assessed monthly. Your child should be able to explain their chosen goal and the strategies that they are using to achieve the goal.

Four students were included on the Principal's Wall of Fame for October. The goal is 90% on combined Reading and Math assessments. Our target for November is to increase that number. Please help us to stress to your child the importance of doing their personal best.

The Data Notebooks are in use daily. Look for the notebook to come home on November 15, December 15, and January 16. There is a section for your feedback and signature. Please include a comment and return the next day. Students should have their Data Notebooks with them daily in the classroom.

Finally, we want you to know that one of the most important goals this year is to keep the lines of communication open between us. Please feel free to call, email, or send a note. We are eager to meet with you and work out ways that we can best help your child to have a successful school year.

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Team