

Third Quarter, 2007

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 third quarter curricular intents.

We begin with reading comprehension strategies of making inferences and responding to a scientific exploration. In Reading for Literary Experience, students will examine the genre studies of Plays and Science Fiction. Also, students will be exposed to a variety of books written by Jean Fritz and Chris Van Allsburg. In Reading to be Informed, students will study Feature Articles. We will look at text features, word play, multiple meanings, and structures that connect ideas. Test taking skills will be interspersed throughout the quarter.

Students will write to persuade. We will brainstorm persuasive topics. Consideration will be given to arguments for, arguments against, and compromises. 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 compare, order, multiply, and divide decimals. In their study of Statistics, students will compute and compare simple examples of range, mean, mode, and median. They will also analyze and interpret stem and leaf plots.

Math A students will compare, order, and describe rational numbers in equivalent forms. They will compute to find ratios, rates, and unit rates in the context of solving a problem. Students will identify and classify translations (slide), reflections (flip), and rotations (turn) in their study of Geometry. They will also be introduced to Algebra, Patterns, and Functions. Descriptive unit letters will be sent home during the quarter.

In the second unit of Social Studies, Economics: Creating a New Nation, the students will examine the complex events that led to the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation and the eventual adoption of our Constitution. We will analyze the Constitution in anticipation of our trip to the Constitution Center in Philadelphia. We will continue to use timelines and graphic organizers to investigate the economic forces that made a new form of government necessary.

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

Three students were included on the Principal's Wall of Fame for January. The goal is 90% on combined Reading and Math assessments. Our target for February 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 February 15, March 15, and April 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

