

# FIFTH GRADE NEWS

## SEPTEMBER, 2011

### **Reading is a Blast**

Reading comprehension is the process of understanding and constructing meaning from a piece of text. Connected text is any written material involving multiple words that forms coherent thoughts. Phrases, sentences, paragraphs are examples of connected text that can be read with comprehension. Reading difficulties become most apparent when the reader is unable to grasp the meaning from a text passage. Reading comprehension may be affected by the difficulty of the text, the vocabulary words used in the text, and the reader's familiarity with the subject matter, among other factors. Please discuss the importance of reading with your child.

The fifth grade students will begin their first unit on reading historical fiction. Also, they will be listening to their teachers read various historical fiction picture books from different eras in history to help expand their understanding of history. In addition, the students will use the story elements (characters, setting, plot, theme, problem, and solution) to help give them a better understanding of their independent novel

We will be introducing literature circles in reading. Students will have the opportunity to identify the various roles played in a literature circle. In addition, they will be engaged in literature circles with their classmates.

Our first genre study in reading will be historical fiction. Students will be identifying the characteristics that make up a historical fiction book, as well as its story elements. Your child may be reading one of the following books during this unit.

- 1) Number the Stars
- 2) Sign Painter's Secret
- 3) Sign of the Beaver
- 4) Tolliver's Secret
- 5) Night Journeys
- 6) The Root Cellar

### **Writing/Grammar**

The students are off to a great start in writing. We are identifying parts of speech, including subjects/objects, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The students are working on writing for personal expression. We are coaching students to clearly develop their ideas and organize them effectively. They will work on developing well-written paragraphs, topic sentences, and hooks ("attention getters") that will carry over into five paragraph essays.

## **Math 6**

The Math 6 classes will begin their unit one with data and statistics. The students will learn to make and interpret Stem and Leaf plots, fine-tune their skills on creating line plots, and review how to find statistical measures such as mean, median, and mode (measures of central tendency) as well as range. The students will work on with various other graphic organizers such as circle graphs, bar graph, and line graphs. We will spend much time helping students understand how this unit is applied in the real world.

There will be weekly quizzes given on Thursdays to be reviewed in class on Friday.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

Unit one focuses on the Number Theory. Students will be learning various concepts in this unit. They will be learning how to:

- 1) Identify prime and composite numbers
- 2) Identify the divisibility rules for 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 10
- 3) analyze patterns and generalizing rules
- 4) construct function tables with given information
- 5) write and evaluate algebraic expressions
- 6) use their problem solving strategies to help solve word problems

Your child will have a math quiz every Thursday. Please make sure that your child studies for the quizzes. In addition, help your child study their basic facts every night. We are finding that unit one is a challenge to those students that struggle with their basic facts.

## **Social Studies**

The fifth graders will begin the school year by investigating basic mapping skills. They will review orientation, continents, and oceans. Finally the students will create their own land to show mastery of these skills. Then the students will dive right in to citizens' rights and responsibilities in the United States of America.

We are looking forward to sharing our great history with the new fifth graders.

## **Science**

Our first unit of study is *Force, Motion, and Energy*. We will investigate Newton's Laws of Motion and how these concepts apply to everyday life.

All classes are reinforcing the scientific method with hands-on experiments. Our goal is to create wonder and encourage independent thinking about scientific concepts.

We are off to a great start in fifth grade! The students are beginning to fall into their everyday routines. The fifth grade team has very high expectations and we know that with your support, the students will not only be successful this year, they will leave fifth grade completely prepared for middle school. We look forward to a wonderful educational year.