



# 5th Grade Newsletter

December 2016

## Upcoming Events

Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Amalfitano, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Goins, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. Patton, Mr. Stephanos

**Food Drive** - The food drive was a tremendous success. A lot of food was donated for needy families. Thank you for all of your donations!

**Attendance/Missed Work** - Good attendance is imperative to school success. If your child is absent, please send a note into school within 3 days explaining the absence. Your child is responsible for any work missed while absent. Check your child's homework folder for the "While You Were Out" paper. All missed assignments will be listed, and necessary papers will be attached.

**Common Core State Standards** - Each month we will feature two standards currently being taught in the classroom.

Literacy.RI.5.8 - Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which points.

Math.5.NF.B.3 - Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator ( $a/b = a \div b$ ). Solve word problems involving division of whole numbers leading to answers in the form of fractions or mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.



### December/January Dates

Dec. 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Dec. 14	2nd Marking Period Mid-Point
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Holiday Break
Jan. 3	School Reopens
Jan. 16	MLK Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
Jan. 17	Amazon Novel Project Due
Jan. 25	End of the 2nd Marking Period
Jan. 26-27	NO SCHOOL

## Reading

We are currently wrapping up Unit 2, *Energy at Work*. While reading *Jake Drake*, we are practicing making inferences, using direct quotes from the text as evidence. After winter break, we will have a classroom debate about building wind turbines off the coast of Rehoboth Beach. The students will research the issue, and defend their viewpoint during a lively debate! Recently, students have been working hard on recognizing the 5 nonfiction signposts as they read. By recognizing these signposts, students can deepen their understanding of a nonfiction text. The signposts are contrasts and contradictions, extreme language, quoted words, numbers and stats, and word gaps. Ask your child to tell you about them! Next, we will begin piloting a new reading program from the American Reading Company. We will be completing a Research Lab based on the American Revolution. Students will read a variety to texts relating to the American Revolution, and produce an informational writing piece as part of the unit. **Don't forget that Amazon Novel Projects are due on January 17th!!!**

## Writing

Students recently investigated and wrote argumentative essays about a law passed in 2011 which allows only service dogs in public places. As students explored both sides of the issue, they developed solid arguments and wrote an article expressing their opinion. Students practiced their computer skills by typing their final copies. Next, students will write another opinion piece as they explore the topic of e-days vs. snow make-up days. They will write letters to the school board using text evidence to support their opinion.

## Social Studies

We are finishing up our Underground Railroad Unit and are ready to move on to Box Brown and then begin studying the Civil War. The Civil War was a pivotal event in American history and has fascinated and captured people's imagination ever

since. In this unit, students will learn about how social and economic problems can divide a nation and lead to war. We will study various events, battles, and people that were influential to the outcome of the Civil War. Students will be completing a research project about a famous person or event from the Civil War era that will be presented in class. More information about this project will be sent home after winter break.

## Math

We have been very busy in math class this month. Students have been moving quickly through fractions in Unit 4. We have been working on Common Core skills that go along with our Investigations Curriculum. We have spent the last few weeks identifying, comparing, and ordering fractions using six specific strategies. Students have found fractional parts of whole numbers and will be moving into the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of these numbers. As we wrap-up before winter break, students will be continuing fraction work so that we are prepared to resume in January. Please continue to practice basic skills at home so that we can take our mathematics to the next level here in class!

## Science

What effect does acid rain, road salt or fertilizer have on the ecosystem? That is the question fifth grade is investigating in science. Each team is polluting their ecocolumn with a different pollutant or concentration of a pollutant. We will soon begin an oil spill clean-up project. Understanding the human impact on the ecosystem and the importance of taking care of the Earth is our focus. After winter break look for the packet of information students will bring home to help them prepare for the Cape Henlopen 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair that will be held in the spring. More details will follow.

*Happy Holidays from the 5th Grade Team!!!*