



# 5th Grade Newsletter

February 2017

## Upcoming Events

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

**Homework** - Students should be completing all homework assignments, including projects, independently. If your child needs help, feel free to give them advice and help them work through the issue. However, please do not complete the assignment for your child or change their words.

**Absences** - Please remember to send in a parent or doctor note within 3 days of your child's absence. If no note is received, the absence will be unexcused. Also, students are required to make up any missed work. They have two days for every one day of absence to make-up work.

### Common Core State Standards -

The Common Core State Standards drive our instruction in the classroom. Each month, we will be featuring two of the standards we are currently working on in the classroom.

- *Reading Informational Text 5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.* Practice this at home by reading a non-fiction text (newspaper article) together and identify the main ideas. Then, summarize the article.
- *Number & Operations- Fractions 5.NF.A: Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.* Add and subtract fractions with unlike denom-

inators (including mixed numbers) by replacing given fractions with equivalent fractions in such a way as to produce an equivalent sum or difference of fractions with like denominators.

- *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.* Practice at home by writing short pieces meant to inform the reader about a certain topic. Be sure to use the writing process of planning, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing!



### February/ March Dates

Feb. 17	NO SCHOOL
Feb. 20	NO SCHOOL
Feb. 24-March 2	Book Fair
February 28	Evening Conferences
March 1	3rd Marking Period Mid-Point
March 3	NO SCHOOL
March 16	Spring Pictures
March 16	Science Fair Projects Due

## Reading & Writing

We have started piloting the unit *American Revolution & New Nation* from the American Reading Company. This unit blends Reading and Writing together, as students learn about the important events, people, and ideas that started our country. We read short passages from anchor texts, and practice important reading skills such as main idea, key details, informational text structures, and analyzing information. Students have each selected an event from the American Revolution that they will become an expert on. Every day students complete 'Research Reading' on their topic in various trade books. Students read to answer specific research questions about their topic. Students respond to these questions during 'Research Writing.' Once all the information about their topic has been gathered, students will create an informational book about their topic. The book will include writing, illustrations, and text features.

## Social Studies

We are finishing up Box Brown and will 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 later on.

## Math

Over the past month, we have been working hard in math, mastering the concept of fractions. This unit has taken up a large portion of our instruction, but is preparing the students for the Smarter Balance Assessment, which heavily assesses their understanding of the many fractional operations. We will be moving into multiplying and dividing this week, hoping to wrap up the fractions unit by the end

of the month, and continuing on to the study of geometrical shapes and decimals. In math WIN, each group is working on various problem solving skills and strategies along with concepts that will help the students succeed on the SBAC, which is fast approaching. We are using various resources aligned with the Common Core State Standards to ensure full understanding of all concepts. Please continue to practice basic facts at home, as these are the true foundation to the instruction in the classroom.

## Science

In our 5th grade science classes, young chemists are everywhere! Our students are learning about the special properties of mixtures and solutions by using things like salt, citric acid, and calcium chloride. We're making saturated solutions while learning about concentration and dilution. Parents - you can support your child's science education by asking them these questions at home: What is the difference between a mixture and a solution? What are some mixtures and solutions we have at home? Where can I find citric acid at home? Discovering the properties of a variety of materials can be fun.

**SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS  
ARE DUE ON THURSDAY,  
MARCH 16TH.**

