



5th Grade Newsletter

January 2017

Upcoming Events

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

End of 2nd Marking Period - The end of the 2nd marking period is this Wednesday, Jan. 25th. Please check your child's work folder and agenda for any missing assignments. These assignments need to be completed and turned in before the end of the marking period.

Supplies - As we move into the second half of the year, we have noticed that our students seem to be running out of supplies. Please check to see that your child has enough pencils and paper to last through June.

Cold Weather - Please make sure you are sending your child to school prepared to go outside for recess. Winter coats, gloves, and hats are encouraged. We will not let students outside without a coat on cold days.

Common Core State Standards - Each month we will feature two standards that we are currently working on in the classroom.

Informational Text RI.5.6 - Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.B.6 - Solve real world problems involving multiplication of fractions and mixed numbers, e.g., by using visual fraction models or equations to represent the problem.



January/February Dates

Jan. 25	End of the 2nd Marking Period
Jan. 26 and 27	NO SCHOOL - Staff Inservice
Feb. 6	Report Cards
Feb. 17	NO SCHOOL - Staff Inservice
Feb. 20	President's Day - NO SCHOOL
Feb. 28	Evening Conferences
March 1	3rd Marking Period Mid-Point
March 3	NO SCHOOL

Reading

The Amazon Novel Projects were a huge success! We really enjoyed seeing all the final products, and learning about all the awesome books the students have been reading. Soon we will begin piloting a unit from the American Reading Company centered around the American Revolution. This unit will fully integrate reading and writing. Also, we are in the beginning phases of implementing IRLA (Independent Reading Level Assessment). Each student will be individually tested and leveled within the IRLA program. Each student will have power goals that they will be working towards in order to move up to the next level. We will be working hard to increase our reading stamina over the next month. Our ultimate goal is for each student be reading independently, on their level for at least a half an hour each day (during school hours).

Writing

We recently completed our zoo argumentative essays. Students viewed and read multiple sources about the positives and negatives of keeping animals in zoos. Then, the students picked a side and wrote an essay defending their position. The use of text (or video) evidence, transition words, a strong lead and conclusion, and including a counterargument were points of emphasis. Next, as part of the pilot for the American Reading Company, we will work on informational writing within the theme of the American Revolution.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we have begun focusing on slavery and the Civil War. We are now in the Box Brown Unit about a slave who mails himself to freedom and the Underground Railroad. After that, we will begin a study of the Civil War itself; a pivotal event in American history and has fascinated and captured people's imagination ever since. 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.

Math

Upon returning from break, we have been working on problem solving that requires the use of many different operations. Students have been encouraged to read the problem, decide what needs to be done to solve, find an answer, then check that the answer makes sense with the given problem. This will prepare the students for the SBAC Assessment, as many different skills are covered on that test. We will be continuing with Unit 4, and work with adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions in the next few weeks. These skills will move us into the use of decimals coming up in the near future. Please continue to practice basic skills at home on a daily basis and concentrate on how math is used in everyday life!

Science

Students received a packet of information about the upcoming Science Fair. The completed projects are due March 16th. They will present them to their class before they are judged on the 22nd. Trophies and ribbons will be awarded on March 29th at Cape High School. Be sure to follow the directions that were sent home. The last page of the packet is the grading rubric. Make sure your child refers to it often as they are working on their project. Students will practice using the rubrics in class to grade projects from previous years. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to send us an e-mail. sandra.allen@cape.k12.de.us or Brittany.bailey@cape.k12.de.us.

In addition to talking about science fair projects, 5th graders will begin a unit that uses the Engineering Design Process to clean up an "oil-spill". We will investigate how pollutants can spread from its source to areas far away. Decision-making is part of the process since economic concerns also have to be considered.