



# 5th Grade Newsletter

November 2016

## Fifth Grade News

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

**Winter Clothes** - Please label your child's coats and winter accessories with their names. We have lots of lost and found items, and if a name is included then students' clothing can be easily returned.

**Absent Student Policy** - As a reminder, when students are absent they are still responsible for making up any missed work. We will provide students with a list and copies of anything they missed. They have two days for each day of absence to return their missing work, per district policy. If the work is returned after this two day period, the work will be counted as late. If your child is going to miss several days of school, if possible, please come to school to pick up work or let us know if there is another student we can send the work home with.

**Spelling/Geography Bee** - Congratulations to the winners of the classroom spelling and geography bees. They competed in the schoolwide bee on Nov. 22nd. The winners of the classroom geography bees were Oscar Hageman, Noah Diamond, Anna Kucharik, and Jack Huss. The winners of the classroom spelling bees were Cole Tori, Oscar Hageman, Ava Iacona, and Giselle Mora-Rivera. Congratulations to Anna Kucharik, who won the

school geography bee, and Jacob Childress, who won the school spelling bee!

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

### **CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.A.1**

Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (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.RI.5.4**

Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 5 topic or subject area.



## November/December Dates

Nov. 22	Report Cards
Nov. 23-Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 8	Winter Concert
Dec. 14	Evening Conferences
Dec. 14	2nd Marking Period Mid-Point
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break

## Reading

We are currently working in the unit, *Energy at Work*. This unit focuses on reading non-fiction texts. The concepts we will cover include context clues, clarifying, text structure, text features, researching ideas, citing evidence, inferencing, and summarizing. The unit will culminate with students participating in a wind energy debate. Students will research the pros and cons of using wind energy. They will then use this research to debate whether or not we should build more wind turbines in our local area. Be sure to discuss this topic with your child at home!

The Amazon Novel Listing Project was sent home with students several weeks ago. Students must read a teacher-approved novel, and complete the project by Jan. 17th. Please let us know if you have any questions.

## Social Studies

With the election now over—and what an election it was--Social Studies will focus on slavery and the Civil War. We will start with the Box Brown Unit about a slave who mails himself to freedom and the Underground Railroad. Then we will begin a study of the Civil War. The Civil War is 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.

## Writing

In our next writing unit, students will investigate and write argumentative essays

about whether allowing only service dogs in public places is a good law or whether other service animals should be permitted. Students will conduct research on both sides of the issue and develop solid arguments. This will lead them to draft multi-paragraph essays making their case for or against service animals in public places.

## Math

In math, we are working on Unit 4- What's that Portion? In this unit, we will explore fractions, decimals, and percent. These concepts will consume most of our fifth grade year, as we will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, ordering and comparing throughout each unit. Students previous knowledge will be expanded upon as we go to the next level. We are also working on performance tasks in class, which cause us to use high-level thinking in problem solving. Please continue to practice basic multiplication and division facts at home, as these skills are imperative for our daily tasks.

## Science

Our 5th grade scientists had fun working with our ecocolumns and learning about land and water environments. Our ecocolumns are surviving well even though we never feed them or clean them! Ask your child how the two ecosystems support each other so plants and animals survive. The unit test was last week. Soon, one lucky student from each team will win their team's ecocolumn!! We will now move on to the study of the human impact on the ecosystem and how pollution affects our environment. We will study the effects of acid rain, fertilizer run-off, and road salt run-off.