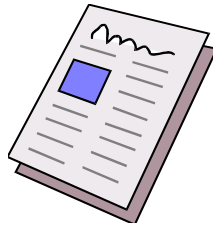


5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



Weekly Newsletter

January 18, 2010

Important Upcoming Dates:

January

- 18 - No School, Martin Luther King Day
- 21 - Geoffrey Castle Fundraiser Concert 7pm
- 28 - Early Dismissal
- 29 - No School, Staff Training Day

February

- 12 - Early Dismissal
- 15 - 16 - No School, Mid-Winter Break

March

- 12 - Early Dismissal
- 26 - Early Dismissal
- 29- April 2 - No School, Spring Break

A message from the 5th Grade Team:

We have been noticing students need pencils. Can you discuss with your child his or her classroom supply needs?

We hope this newsletter is an easy way for all parents to stay informed and up-to-date about the many activities the fifth grade students enjoy each week. Please feel free to contact any one of us about specific subject-related questions or concerns about upcoming events.

Online Book Ordering:

A new catalog will be available for online ordering soon.

PTSA Information:

The PTSA web site is very informative. Please explore online at <http://www.meptsa.org>.

Writing:

This week we'll work on transforming drafts into edited and published essays. Students will recopy their revised draft by hand, will edit the recopied draft using the editing marks learned last unit, and then will type the revised, edited published version. In addition to the work on the essays, students will continue to work on personal spelling lists using the add-a-word strategy. Please feel free to check out your student's progress filed under the class business section of his/her binder. Let me know if you have questions!

Reading:

Our projects are coming to an end, and I am excited to see all the work the kids have done! Next Monday, we begin the oral presentations (a schedule will be sent home tomorrow for who presents when- so have those index cards ready!).

Math:

We are assessing our multi-digit division skills and problem solving skills this week, as a culmination of chapter 4. Once finished with the post assessment, students will complete a pre assessment of their knowledge of using algebraic expressions.

I have aligned our assessments more closely to the specific standards being addressed and how the scores will be reflected on your child's report card. Each chapter contains specific problem solving strategies, which are separate from the skill (adding, dividing, multiplying, place value, etc.) being focused on during the chapter. Problem solving is also reported separately on our report card, so it seemed natural to separate problem solving from the skill being assessed on the chapter tests.

When your child brings home their data folder, please take a look at their final chapter 4 test, as you will notice many changes. First, there will be two grades reported at the top; Multi-Digit Division and Reasoning, Problem Solving and Communication. Those will be the grades reported in those exact same areas on the report card for trimester 2. If your child requires a make-up, they will have a chance to improve their score, which would then be the recorded grade for that trimester.

Reasoning, Problem Solving and Communication will occur during each chapter, therefore, students will have multiple opportunities each trimester to work on their problem solving skills and improve their grade. I will not offer a retake for problem solving, as we focus on problem solving daily in class, and there will be many chances to earn a 3 or 4 in this area before the trimester is complete. Another change you may notice is 4,3,2,1 grades being reported all throughout the test. Each specific standard being taught (which will be denoted on the report card with an asterisk) will be graded so students can see exactly where they need to continue focusing before the trimester is complete. These grades are not averaged to create a final grade, they are for informational purposes.

As this is the first time I am implementing these changes, please be patient as I am sure I will make mistakes and need to revise my plan! Please feel free to let me know if something is working well, confusing, or not meeting your child's needs.

Science/Technology:

This week we are finalizing our Stream Table investigation. We will also be learning how to design logos based on Martin Luther King history.

Homework:

Any work not finished at school is expected to be completed at home. Each student will have a weekly morning packet to be completed and turned in. This is expected to be worked on each day when students finish work in class. If work is not finished at school and not completed as homework, students will miss recess and attend Study Hall to complete their work. Students will also miss Friday Club if all work is not turned in.

Portal Information:

Please visit <http://schools.mukilteo.wednet.edu/me/fifth/index.htm>, the fifth grade, online. You will find our Curriculum PowerPoint presentation, as well as any handouts you may find useful. The daily assignment sheet, student worksheets and rubric information are also available at this online location.

Contact Teachers:

Kari Bass - basska@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Lindsay Middaugh - middaughls@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Sue Idso - idsoso@mukilteo.wednet.edu

Brandon Tepley - tepleybr@mukilteo.wednet.edu