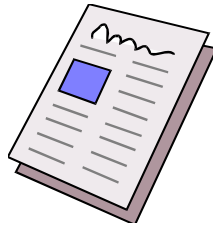


## 5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



### Weekly Newsletter

September 21, 2009

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

##### **September**

24- Early Release at 12:45

25- No School

##### **October**

9- Fund Run

#### A message from Team T.I.H.B.:

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.

#### PTSA Information:

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

#### Writing:

In the first and second week of writing, we worked on stamina and fluency, as writers learned specific strategies to generate ideas for personal narratives. In class, students practiced these strategies and were expected to do daily assignments outside of class as well. As I mentioned at Curriculum Night, your student should be writing at least 10 minutes each day, and by the end of the year, should be spending whatever it takes to finish assignments.

Last week, students started collecting ideas in the pre-writing stage before moving on this week to practicing writing strategies on a "seed idea" and writing that story with the qualities of good narrative writing. Last Thursday, I taught the first spelling strategy lesson where students learned concrete ways they can use what they already know about spelling to be self-critical in identifying misspelled words and problem solvers in spelling them correctly. Let me know if you have any questions!

#### Reading:

Last week, we began a review of how to write a summary. We began focusing on a fiction summary, and this week, we continue our work summarizing a non-fiction text. The fifth grade as a whole is doing an excellent job building their independent reading stamina, as they receive

an opportunity to practice in almost every class session, when they are done with their in-class work.

### **Math:**

Last week we continued to work in Chapter 1: Using Place Value. The learning targets we focused on included comparing whole numbers, using a four-step plan to solve problems, and representing decimals. The most difficult skill worked on last week involved place value to the tenths, hundredths and thousandths.

This week, we will be almost finished with Chapter 1 with a focus on reading and writing decimals in standard, expanded and word forms, comparing decimals, ordering whole numbers and decimals, and solving problems using the guess and check method. Any conversations you can have at home about what we are working on in class would be beneficial to your student. If you can, ask your child to teach you what we are learning! All class notes are kept in your child's math spiral notebook- notes are in the front, practice problems are in the back. Look at your child's assignment calendar to know what homework will be due the following day. Each student should keep homework in the "homework" section of their binder, and work that is completed in the "to turn in" section of their binder. Only work in the "take home" section of their binder is up for grabs!

### **Science/Technology:**

We are beginning to practice the 8 steps of the scientific method. We are investigating the effects of mass on how far we can throw a paper ball. We are also working on our eFolios. Students will soon be bringing a permission slip/explanation slip for posting their work online.

### **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:**

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