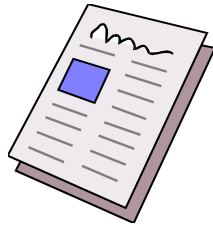


## 5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



### Weekly Newsletter

September 28, 2009

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

October

9- Fund Run

14 - Early Dismissal

26-30 - Early Dismissal, Conference Week

November

6 - Picture Retake Day

#### A message from the 5th Grade Team:

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:

This week we'll be working on drafting from all the work done collecting and pre-writing last week. I'll teach the "discovery draft" technique where students use their best lead copied onto a drafting booklet and then plan the following pages from their timelines. From there, students just write the story, page by page. One of the goals of this assignment is to learn to write following a plan. Next week we'll be learning to revise based on the qualities of good personal narrative writing. Let me know if you have questions.

#### Reading:

This week, we practiced asking questions as we read. We discussed how asking questions about what we read helps our brains think about what we read because we are looking for the answers. This causes us to check our understanding, so we may answer those questions. Then we read a story called, "Eye of the Storm," about a man named Warren Faidley, and his journeys as a storm chaser. The kids practiced asking questions and looking for the answers as they read. We also began our first work with vocabulary. Each student had 9 words to look for and work out a meaning based on how it was used in the story.

### **Math:**

On Monday, we will be playing a math Jeopardy game to see which learning strands we already have mastered, and which we need to focus on as we prepare for the unit 1 post test on Wednesday (look for a practice test in your child's binder Monday afternoon). On Tuesday, we will have our first "on demand" assessment for unit 1. An "on demand" assessment is looking to see if students can use the skills and concepts we learned during the unit by applying them to a situation separate from a math lesson. For unit 1, students will be looking at a non-fiction text about the 50 states, and will complete five real-world problem solving problems using their place value, comparing, ordering and decimal skills.

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:**

This week we are investigating pendulums and the affects of string length on the number of swings in 15 seconds. Students are continuing to practice the 8 steps of the Scientific Method. Students are doing well interpreting data and showing their understanding on a graph. We are also continuing eFolio updates with a goal to have their web sites published and online by conference week!

### **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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