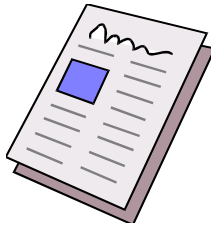


## 5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



### Weekly Newsletter

October 26, 2009

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

##### **October**

26-30 - Early Dismissal, Conference Week

29 - PTSA Pumpkin Night 6:30-8pm in the gym

##### **November**

6 - Picture Retake Day

11 - Veterans Day - No School

25 - Early Dismissal

26-27 - No School, Thanksgiving Holiday

##### **December**

4 - Early Dismissal

21-31 Winter Break, No School

#### 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:

We've reached personal narrative publishing week! This week students will be celebrating and sharing their work at a publishing party. The published narratives are displayed while students offer each other constructive criticism with "glow" (something done well) and "grow" (an area for improvement) comments. Our publishing party will be split into 2 class periods (since we have "mini-blocks" this week with half-days all week) on Wednesday and Thursday. These personal narratives along with writer's notebooks, and all the work leading up to the published version, will be presented to you during conferences. Please take a look and then leave the writing artifacts with your student's homeroom teacher as they still need final scores from me. When I've finished grading, your student may take the narrative home, but please return them when you've finished since each student keeps a portfolio of work in class.

**Reading:**

This week, we are practicing how to include our own thinking while answering reading questions. This has been a challenge for the fifth graders, but after our 3rd day of practice, I am seeing some really thoughtful responses that reflect their thinking about what they read.

Parents: Please make sure your son or daughter is reading every night. The expectation is 20 minutes a night, or 120 minutes a week. They need to write a summary of what they read every night on their reading logs. Thank you.

**Math:**

During each early release day, we are reviewing the skills and concepts learned in chapter 2. Look for the chapter 2 practice test to be coming home on Wednesday, to be due the following Monday. Students will take the chapter 2 post test on Monday of next week. The chapter 2 notes your child has taken have been posted to the 5th Grade Team website, under the math link.

Does your child need more math fact practice? If you visit the math link from the 5th Grade Team website, you will find printable timing sheets and links to websites with math fact practice games. Students who have automatic recall of their basic math facts find learning new concepts much easier than their peers who struggle working out math facts before moving more deeply into the new concept.

**Science/Technology:**

This week we are finalizing our Lifeboat investigation and updating our eFolios to show at conferences.

**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.

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