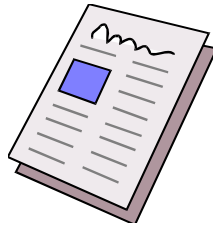


5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



Weekly Newsletter

November 2, 2009

Important Upcoming Dates:

November

- 6 - Picture Retake Day
- 10 - Veterans Day Assembly
- 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 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.

PTSA Information:

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

Writing:

We're finishing our publishing parties and exploring poetry this week before starting on a non-narrative genre next week. On Monday, each block will elect their favorite personal narrative and the winner will read aloud to the class. All students will learn about inflection and intonation, and will have the chance to practice with their writing partner, as well as in front of the class if they choose to do so. In addition, we'll start a poetry exploration to build on what is already known about poetry as we start our first piece, an "I'm from . . ." poem, a form of poetry with a repeated line or phrase. Students will learn to use two-column notes to "push" their thinking and let their writing reveal something new. The week will end with

drafting the poems and playing a verb game to increase vocabulary and knowledge of verb tense.

Reading:

Social Studies begins! I am truly excited to introduce the history of the United States to our fifth graders. We begin our unit by reading the introduction to Joy Hakim's, [A History of US](#), and reading about why we should study history and learn from it. This week, we will be discussing how the first people reached North America, what brought them here, and what they found. We will continue our discussion by studying the Inuits of the Arctic as our first glance at how environment affects lifestyle.

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:

This week we will be taking the unit 2 post assessment on Monday and the unit 3 pre assessment on Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday will be spent beginning unit 3, which focuses on multiplication.

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 beginning our Plane Sense science lesson. Students will try to find a trend for the number of propeller winds needed to safely fly their planes across a flight line.

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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