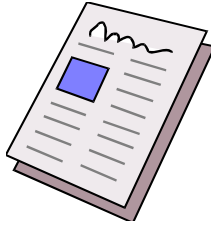


5th Grade Team's Classroom Tidbits



Weekly Newsletter

November 16, 2009

Important Upcoming Dates:

November

18 - Vision/Hearing Screening 9-10am

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.

Online Book Ordering:

Student book orders through Scholastic Book clubs can be made online! Many of you have already taken advantage of this option. The current book order will be sent in on November 30, 2009. To order online you can visit this link, and then follow the directions on the page to order easily. <http://schools.mukilteo.wednet.edu/me/fifth/scholastic/index.htm>

PTSA Information:

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

Writing:

I hope you've all had a chance to appreciate the hard work your child did in drafting, revising, editing, and finally publishing his or her personal narrative, the first published piece in fifth grade. We are transitioning this week to non-narrative writing and are in the pre-writing phase. This week, students will learn strategies to grow ideas from everyday situations and

observations into big ideas suitable for essay writing. The switch in genre will challenge students to show their thinking in the form of big ideas, but will also show them that ideas for non-narrative forms of writing often are found in same place that ideas for narrative writing are found . . . in everyday life.

Reading:

We continue our study of geography and how it affects an area's climate, which in turn affects a group of people's lifestyle. This week we are focusing the first peoples of the Northwest Coast in general, then will narrow in on the Quinault tribe.

Math:

We are right in the middle of unit 3; multiplication. This week, students will begin mastering up to two by three digit multiplication problems. I will encourage students to solve these multiplication problems by using either the distributive property, or the traditional algorithm (numbers lined up according to place value- the way we adults were asked to memorize). Students must show their work, even when solving mental math problems, so I can see what they are thinking as they are working. Please ask your student to show you their homework and explain the strategy they are using- allow them to make up problems for you to solve, and ask them to check your thinking! Studies have shown that when you can teach a concept to another person, you are at the highest level of mastery yourself.

Science/Technology:

This week we are finalizing our last investigation. We are updating eFolios. We are also practicing the last two steps of the scientific method: Analyze Data and Conclusion. Students will be looking at the World Champion New York Yankees batting lineup and making some conclusions on the reasons for batting order.

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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