

5th GRADE NEWSLETTER



Quote of the month: "Being kind isn't always easy or convenient but it has the potential to change everything." -*Unknown*

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS MONTH?

In Reading....

Currently, we are finishing our fiction book club unit. Throughout this unit we have studied characters, analyzed themes, identified story elements and discovered figurative language in order to dive deep into our reading. We have had the opportunities to partake in some interesting and exciting book talks.

As we get closer to the NYS ELA exam, classes will be practicing strategies to help them navigate and comprehend stories (and poems) as well as how to effectively answer multiple choice questions and essay responses. We will continue to use the Ready books, as well as short texts, to reinforce these strategies.

Remember, your child should be reading for at least 30 minutes a day. Have home discussions about what they are reading and the many different story elements their books have.

IN WRITING...

Our students are currently immersed in a narrative unit. Overall, they are very excited about this topic and are excited to share their stories! We have several goals for this unit that include using understanding following a story structure, building suspense, incorporating a moral or lesson into your story, using transitional phrases, strategies for using internal and external dialogue, and trying out the use of symbols in their writing.

You can help your child at home by asking them to notice internal and external dialogue in the chapter books that they are reading, and asking them how that helps contribute to character development. Also, have them notice the use of italics for internal dialogue and quotation marks and indenting for external dialogue.

In math...

We are about to start our fractions unit! To build on the ideas students have from fourth grade, we began the fraction unit by thinking about sharing sub sandwiches fairly. We are also thinking about placing fractions on a number line through an investigation called the Adirondack State Park problem.

In the next few weeks, students will learn how to add and subtract fractions with common and uncommon denominators. We will move into multiplying fractions using models (such as the array or area model).

Some questions you can ask to help your child in math:

- What is happening in this problem?
- What information don't you have in this problem?
- Can you draw a model to show what is happening here?
- Does your answer make sense?
- Can you explain your thinking to me?

<p>IN SOCIAL STUDIES... 501, 502 and 503 are learning about Indigenous People and Latin America. Your children are learning about how geography affected the daily life and culture of the Aztec, Maya, Inca, and Inuit peoples of the Americas. You can support their learning at home by asking them what they learned in class and familiarizing yourselves with maps and geographical features of North, Central, and South America.</p> <p>504, 505 and 506 are all learning about Explorers. They should be able to discuss what motivated these explorers, as well as what they discovered and challenges they faced.</p> <p>As always, content-specific vocabulary will be an important part of this unit. Expect your child to research topics on these specific people.</p> <p>Some classes will be working on projects. When students are researching and publishing they should be using their rubrics and checklists.</p>	<p>In Science...</p> <p>In fifth grade, the scientists in training have wrapped up our Unit of Study, Physical and Chemical Changes and we have completed the Unit Assessment. If your child has not returned the signed assessment slip, please sign and return it. We are beginning our next Unit of Study called Matter and Energy in Ecosystems. At home, you can watch animal documentaries and discuss how living things depend on one another.</p>	<p><i>Technology...</i></p> <p>During the month of February, 5th graders will continue to explore their G-Suite accounts. Students will be learning about cloud computing and creating digital portfolios. Students will use their Google Drives to create, store and access their work. Please remember to login to Keyboarding Without Tears to practice your typing skills at home.</p>
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<p>In Health... Personal Hygiene- We are learning, understanding & discussing the importance of keeping personal hygiene up to standards as we develop into our pre-teen years.</p> <p>In Gym... Floor Hockey- We will use a variety of team-building skills to refine and strengthen our gross motor skill abilities in stick handling, passing and moving with the ball/puck.</p> <p>IN MUSIC... In February we will be completing our work on our original compositions for glockenspiel, and begin our study of orchestral music in preparation for our trip to see the New York Philharmonic on March 20.</p>	<p><i>ArtsConnection</i></p> <p>We are learning about Claymation through our ArtsConnection residency! Students have watched several professional examples and have begun planning their own production.</p> <p>Upcoming Dates and Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ February 7th – Lunar New Year Celebration ★ February 13th – PTA meeting ★ Feb.17 through Feb. 21 – Mid-Winter Recess ★ March 20 – New York Philharmonic trip
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Student Quote: "We're not erasing each other, we're erasing the problem!" --Joseph Calixto