

5th GRADE NEWSLETTER

March 2020

Quote of the month: "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?" - Dr. Seuss

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS MONTH?

In reading...

Students are preparing for the NYS ELA Test in March.

During this month they will be reviewing testing strategies to successfully read passages and answer multiple choice questions. To ensure they are prepared, the classes will be using their Ready Books, Read Alouds, and several short passages accompanied with multiple choice questions.

Teachers will also teach strategies to handle the emotional stress of taking the test, and show the students silent movement breaks they can use while taking the test.

During this month students will continue to read their independent reading books, use their i-Ready and Myon Accounts.

IN WRITING...

Fifth graders are working on another non-fiction writing unit. Students will be conducting research, with an eye toward evaluating the reliability of various sources. Organizing their information will be an important focus. Students are expected to take a position on an issue, then write in a persuasive manner to convince their reader of the truth of that position.

At the same time, we will be preparing for the state ELA test. We continue to use our Ready books, as well as supplemental passages, to make our short answers and essays the best they can be.

In math...

In math... As we are approaching Spring, we are blossoming as math learners working on strategies to add and subtract fractions with either common or uncommon denominators. Then, we are going to move onto multiplying and dividing fractions using different visual models...

As we are working on these topics, students should be thinking about:
*What information is each question asking? *Is there any missing information from the question?
*How can I solve the problem? *How can I check my answer? *Does my answer make sense? *Do I understand how I got my answer, and explain my thinking?

<p>IN SOCIAL STUDIES... In Social Studies, our fifth grade students will begin to study the Westward Expansion of the United States of America. This information also aligns with our current reading and writing units. Social Studies time will be used to ensure that students have the necessary background knowledge to be successful in all of their curricular areas. Additionally, as always, Social Studies is a subject that allows our students to engage with story and timeless questions which help inform their understanding of the past and the future. They will be exploring the reasons behind why people migrated West during the 1800's and the impact that cultural collision had on all of the people involved. They will ponder big questions such as: Who has the right to claim land? How does technology impact development? What gets lost and left behind in the name of progress?</p>	<p>IN SCIENCE... Fifth Grade Scientists have completed dissecting the owl pellets and have put the remains together. This allowed them to identify the type of prey owls consume. They applied this information to come up with the owl's role within its ecosystem. Currently, the students are exploring how abiotic (non-living) factors and (living) biotic factors are interdependent. At home, the students can research some of the impacts pollution, overfishing, and/or overpopulations have in various types of ecosystems.</p>	<p>Art... The fifth grade will be designing an All About Me piece incorporating customized open fonts and symbols which reflect each student's character traits and interests.</p>

<p>In Health... Exercise Unit- Understanding the importance of routine exercise throughout our lives to maintain a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>In Gym... Tennis Ball Activities & Manipulatives- Refining our coordination and gross motor skills during fun & dynamic activities.</p> <p>In Music... In 5th grade music we will continue learning about the composers whose works we will be listening to when we go to hear the New York Philharmonic on March 20. We will focus on how these composers were influenced by changes that were happening during their lifetimes, and how their works also celebrate important events from both the past and present.</p>	<p>ArtsConnection: Claymation Students have been working in the pre-production phase (writing scripts, building sets, and creating clay characters) of their claymation films. Over the next few weeks they will begin production by photographing their films frame by frame and beginning to do voice-overs and sound effects.</p> <p>Upcoming Dates and Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ March 4-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences ★ March 20 New York Philharmonic Field Trip ★ Week of March 25-26: NYS ELA Test ★ Week of April 21-22: NYS Math Test

