

The Crocodile Beat

September News from Fifth Grade

Social Studies

We have wrapped up our unit on the Civil War. The rest of September will be spent discussing Reconstruction. This will include the rebuilding of the South and how the lives of the now freed slaves changed. We will investigate their role in America during this time and what their experience was like with their new freedom. Thanks to those of you who have sent in your Daily Geography workbook money! We are planning to order these soon and when they come in we will begin working on geography weekly.

Language Arts Loop

The students will continue to do Daily Grammar Practice (DGP) and Analogies to support proper mechanics. 5th graders are continuing to improve their handwriting and should do daily work in cursive. Writing tasks will be assigned across the curriculum. Students are working on the writing process and completing activities to support the *6 + 1 Traits of Writing*. This will help us prepare for the writing assessment in March.

Rockin' Reading

We are currently assessing students' comprehension skills and strategies, along with their oral reading fluency. Students will be asked to comprehend with understanding, explore details, and identify key text features in nonfiction materials. All classes are using the reading series, *Storytown*. The students will also be using the Scholastic Reading Activity (SRA) program, which will allow students to work at their independent reading levels in order to grow as readers. Please remind your student to read every night and to record their reading time at <http://www.readingrewards.com>! Students should have completed reading about 3 books, each equaling 150 pages or a total of 450 pages. Our first 25 Book Goal of 6 Books is Oct. 10th.

Swingin' Science

Students have finished reviewing the basics of scientific inquiry and the use of process skills. These skills are applied to all aspects of the science curriculum. Science safety is also emphasized when using science materials and equipment. The first major topic in Physical Science is Matter. The students will learn firsthand about the properties of matter. They will construct a basic understanding of the Law of Conservation of Mass. They will identify chemical and physical changes in matter through hands on experiments and activities. This unit is sure to be a blast!

Mad About Math

Our students have been working hard to master the concepts of numbers contained in the Unit 1. They have been exploring and mastering place value, classifying counting numbers (odd/even, prime/composite), multiples, factors, and the divisibility rules. These concepts help them to understand the mechanics of multiplication and division of whole numbers and decimal fractions. Students should continue to review these concepts as well as addition and subtraction of 2 & 3 digit numbers and multiplication facts. **Knowing basic facts is crucial for math achievement!** Classes have completed the first 4-week test. Next in this Unit, we will be working on developing an understanding of the meaning of multiplication and division with decimals including estimation. All concepts will be tested on again, at the end of the 1st Nine Weeks.

Announcements:

Sept. 29th/30th - Hearing/Vision Screening
Sept. 29th - PTO General Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Oct. 10th - End of 1st Nine Weeks - 6 Books Due
Oct. 13th - Fall Family Picnic @ 4:30 pm
Oct. 17th - Report Cards Go Home
Oct. 21st - Student Holiday

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