5th Grade News

Important Information

Long-Term Substitute: Earlier this week, I sent out an email explaining that Megan Calamaras will take over for me for the last weeks of school. My last day will theoretically be May 4. Mrs. Calamaras will be here from May 5 to the end of the year. I plan to come back to visit the class with new baby boy, as well as attend our Cast Off ceremony. If you would like to meet Mrs. Calamaras, she will be here after school on April 7. Please feel free to drop between 2:55 and 3:20.

Science Fair: My check-ins with Science Fair projects are done. I am happy to help kids as they carry out investigations and work on their display boards, but nothing else is due until March 30. This is the day boards need to be brought to the Gym after school.

Fifth Grade Service Project: Hopefully you have all seen the money collection envelope and communication regarding this year’s 5th Grade Service Project. We are excited that this year kids will be making blankets in order to help Project Linus and Eastside Baby Corner! I know a lot of kids have been working on projects and asking for donations this week. The donations are to help us cover the up-front costs of materials to make the blankets. Anything above and beyond the goal of $20/student is excellent! Money can be brought to school next Friday, March 11 (please, not before). Blankets will be made Tuesday, March 15. A huge thank you goes to Dafna Tarlowe and Michelle Lyman from our class for organizing and leading this project!!

Beaver Lake Visit: We will be taking our 5th graders to Beaver Lake Middle School for a quick visit on the morning of March 16. Students will take a tour of the school, hear about electives, and have a small taste of middle school life. You are invited to attend a Parent Night at the middle school the night before, March 15. I highly encourage you to attend this informational presentation in order to learn more about middle school and 6th grade, specifically. Even if you have had an older child attend Beaver Lake, I can tell you that a lot has changed even in the past two years – might be worth your time.

Testing Season: Over the next few weeks, we will begin doing some preparation for the SBA testing we will take in April. We will focus on test taking strategies and understanding the format/structure of the tests. We will NOT be studying up on content. I have attached a letter explaining how to access the practice modules from home should you or your child wish to do so. I encourage you to look at it if you have time.
**March Book Review:** Students need to read any fiction genre this month and write a book review essay (just like September, October, December, January directions). It is due 3/31.

**Thank You:** Thank you to Jaime Foreman for helping in our classroom this week! Thank you to Kellie Gazzard for being our art teacher! Thank you to Betsy Matias for being our Guest Reader this week!

**Curriculum Notes**

**Reading:** Students presented about their nonfiction topics this week. We heard about a variety of topics – from Walt Disney and golden retrievers to Bill Gates and the Dumbo octopus. I was very pleased with the obvious practice and time put into what the students shared.

This week we continued our genre study of folktales. We have looked specifically at the characteristics of fables, fairy tales, and tall tales. We had a lot of fun comparing original versions of fables and fairy tales to more modern versions.

**Science:** We began our study of flowering plants. We read background information about the Brassica plant, which students will be growing and experimenting with over the next few weeks. Students also planned their group investigations.

**Math:** Students finished one unit (focused on notation and order of operations) this week and started another. It began with a review of all fifth grade fractions concepts learned so far.

**Writing:** In writing workshop, we continued our work with argument writing. Students finished their essays about zoos, and have begun drafting their next piece. They have researched one of three topics (homework, school uniforms, recess) on their own in order to form an opinion, write a claim, and gather supporting evidence.

**Art:** Students were exposed to a little art history this week as we looked at cubism. Using some of Picasso’s portraits for inspiration, everyone created his/her own cubism portrait using oil pastel. They look great in the hallway near the Music room!

**Important Dates**

- March 7, 11, 15, 18…Cartooniversity
- March 15…5th Grade Service Project
- March 16…AM Visit to Beaver Lake Middle School
- March 30…Drop off Science Fair Projects
- March 31…Science Fair
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