

# News From The Top

February 8, 2010

## Curriculum

In Science, we spent about a week on reviewing Life Science which included How Living Things Interact with Their Environment. We realize that students have learned these concepts of food chain and food web in prior years; however, we felt we needed to refresh their memories.

Our students seem extremely excited to have begun the study of Earth and Space. So far, students have learned what causes day, night, and the seasons. From there, we have discussed how the Earth and moon compare and the phases of the moon. All students created a black space folder to keep all of the activities that are completed organized in one place. It is each child's responsibility to keep track of all assignments.

During the next few weeks, our goal is to discuss eclipses, constellations, relative size and distance of the planets, and our Milky Way galaxy. Chapter Nine test should be administered the last week in February around the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Please check your child's agenda for exact dates as the time gets closer.

In Math, we have begun our study of fractions. All classes have broken up into RTI groups (Response to Intervention) based on a pre-test. Please remember that your child is placed in the appropriate group to meet individual success. Our math homework will vary from class to class according to the needs of each group. All math homework will be corrected during RTI math time. Thank you for your continued support as our goal is to reach the needs of ALL of students to the best of our ability.

In Reading, we have come to the end of Theme Three which means we will be reviewing the skills of compare/contrast and cause and effect. Grammar will also be a review of common/proper nouns, singular/plural nouns, possessive nouns, and pronouns. These skills should all be a review for your child. Our story is *How Prairie Became Ocean*. Don't forget your child can always access the story for the week and our skills by logging on to our fifth grade website [www.fantasticfifth.net](http://www.fantasticfifth.net). This website also has a lot of pertinent information that can be beneficial in all areas.

For Social Studies, students are expected to learn where all of the states and capitals are located. Therefore, we are incorporating a few states and capitals into our usual spelling lists each week. So your child will be responsible to learn a total of thirty words. Please have your child review the spelling, postal abbreviation and location of the states and capitals nightly at home. We are chunking these states a few at a time so students are not overwhelmed. Eventually, students will be

required to complete a map of all of the states and capitals so have them start to practice!

Also, students have learned about the different time zones and why we have them. They seemed to enjoy this skill!

## Kennedy Space Center

Don't forget our trip to Kennedy is Thursday, February 18. Please make sure if you are planning on chaperoning that you have returned the white form stating whether you plan to ride the bus or driving your car.

## Valentine's Day

As you know, Valentine's Day is Sunday and we have no school Friday, Feb. 2 or Monday, February 15. Therefore, if your child would like to bring in a valentine card for EVERY student in his or her own class, then they may do so. We will exchange them in the afternoon but we will have no "formal" party.

## Honor Roll

Our fifth grade honor roll assembly will be on Wednesday, Feb. 24 in the cafeteria at 2:15. Parents are more than welcome to attend.

## PTA Spring Social

Mark your calendars for the annual PTA Spring Social on Saturday, April 17, 2009 at the Vero Beach Country Club. This should be a night full of fun, laughter, and relaxation. Don't miss out on this exciting event. Don't forget to send in a copy of your favorite family recipe to school with your child. These recipes will be collected and compiled into a Beachland Cookbook which will be available for purchase at the event. Please have all recipes turned in by February 11<sup>th</sup>.

## FCAT Testing:

Mark your calendars for these very important dates. Please make sure your child is well-rested, well-fed and arrives on time these testing dates.

Tuesday, March 9 begins our FCAT testing. A more specific schedule of subject areas tested will be forthcoming.

As always, thank you for your support! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

The Fifth Grade TEAM