

News From The Top

October 26, 2009

Curriculum

In Science, we completed our study of matter. Students took the Chapter Two Science test last week, and it should be coming home today in Monday Folders. Please review this test with your child. Thank you to Mrs. Lazan for visiting our classrooms and demonstrating a fabulous science chemical reaction. The kids (and teachers) loved it! Also, please make sure to review the Science Fair packet that was sent home a few weeks ago. Each class has gone over specific directions as to what is expected for the Science Fair Research Paper that is **due this Thursday**. This paper should include an introduction, several paragraphs that reflect research about the topic, and wrapping up the paper with a conclusion paragraph that includes the hypothesis. You should **NOT** include any other details that specifically relate to your individual project such as procedures, materials, or other data. The research paper should be completed **BEFORE** conducting your experiment. Speaking of Science Fair, we are not following the exact timeline that was initially distributed. It is imperative that you continuously check your child's agenda for due dates and also check the monthly calendar. All Science Fair projects are due **Friday, November 20** ready to present to the class. Remember there can be no projects relating to mold, algae or any other type of bacteria.

Moving on in Science, we will begin our study of Energy. Students will read pages 96-99 and participate in a hands-on activity entitled "To Bounce or Not" on Monday. This lesson focuses on kinetic and potential energy. Then, we will read pages 100-104 and conduct the Insta-Lab which demonstrates how energy

transfers. On Wednesday, students will participate in a whole-group activity called Rubber Band Racer. This lesson will incorporate our math and science lesson for the day because students will be collecting data and creating a graph from the activity.

Students should be prepared for a *short quiz* that will focus on kinetic and potential energy.

Last week in Math, students explored algebraic equations using Hands-On Equations. There were five lessons that all built on the other. We will actually complete the five lessons of equations during our RTI time throughout this week.

Students will also be moving on (in math) to Chapter Five Data, Graphs, and Probability on pages 260-279. We will begin with Lesson 5-1 (Collecting Data from a Survey) on pages 260-261 and continue to complete a lesson a day through Friday where students will be creating individual graphs. Our goal is for students to have a better understanding of creating graphs using their Science Fair data.

The Math Progress Monitoring test was administered last week, and your child's score will be discussed during conferences. This test will count as one math grade for the first nine weeks.

In Reading, we will begin Theme Two in our reading books. The overall idea of these stories is "working for a common goal". We plan to teach the skills from our reading book by using the novel *Sign of the Beaver*. The focus skill this week is Theme. The objective is for students to be able to recognize the theme in a story and to understand how characters'

qualities and actions contribute to the theme or message. Our goal is to read through Chapter Four this week and have a *spelling* and *vocabulary* test on the words Friday. We are using this novel as whole-group instruction to demonstrate to our students what is expected when they begin to create Book Club Folders for their individual novels.

Don't forget...your child can always access the story for the week and our skills by logging on to either our fifth grade website www.fintasticfifth.net or www.thinkcentral.com.

On Friday afternoon, we plan to take a deep breath and enjoy a variety of Fall activities. Students have been working very hard and deserve some time to relax and enjoy one another.

Fall Family Festival

What a great success! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and contributed items or time for our Fall Festival. It was so nice to see our families enjoy a night of food, fun and games! Thank you again! You are all greatly appreciated!

Report Cards and Conferences

Wow! Where did this first nine weeks go? Wednesday, October 28 is the end of the first nine weeks. Today you should have received a conference sign up form. Please complete it and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. You will receive your child's report card at your specified conference time. Thank you for making time to meet with your child's teacher! Communication is the key to success!

Veterans Day

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 11. There is no school in honor of our Veterans.

FPL Field Trip

All classes will be taking a field trip to FPL either Monday, November 23 or Tuesday, November 24. The dates for specific classes will be forthcoming. This is a fun yet educational day trip to FPL...and then a park lunch and playtime following. Parents are welcome to attend, so please look for more information in the weeks ahead.

Thanksgiving Holiday

I can't believe we are already talking about Thanksgiving, but I guess "time flies when you are having fun"! Please note that there is no school Wednesday, November 25 through Friday November 27. Happy Turkey Day!

As always, we appreciate the support from all of our parents. We could not do this without you! We also want to thank you for welcoming our new teacher, Mr. Smith. He is a great addition to our TEAM!

Fifth Grade TEAM