

5th Grade December Newsletter

ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)

When we returned from Thanksgiving Break, we were making progress with our non-fiction-based **Reading** unit called "Tackling Text Complexity". Students will continue receiving introductory lessons at the start of each session, then meet in small groups, or reading partners, or continue informal conferences with their teacher. Students will also have the opportunity to conduct their own inquiry project based on a non-fiction interest of their choice.

As before, the enduring understandings of this unit include:

- Readers turn to complex nonfiction because these texts give them access to knowledge and opportunities.
- Readers need skills and strategies to tackle difficulties in complex nonfiction.
- Readers synthesize information across nonfiction texts to develop a deeper understanding of a topic or issue.
- The essential questions students will continue to be able to answer include:
- How do nonfiction texts become increasingly complex?
- What skills and strategies help a reader understand a complex nonfiction text?
- How do readers transfer nonfiction reading skills to complete independent research?
- Our **Word Work** block is a blend of vocabulary instruction as well as semantics, parts of speech, punctuation ... all the components of quality 5th grade writing pieces.
- We are so proud of our writers! We wrote our first news article and celebrated our writers with our classmates. Our second **Writing** unit is Journalism.

Enduring understandings include:

- Journalism is a form of writing that blends what writers know about other genres.
- Journalists write concise and focused news reports.
- Journalists cycle through the writing process quickly.
- Journalists write feature articles to explore an event or issue more in depth.
- The essential questions students will be able to answer include:
- How do journalists write quickly to expose thoughtful observations about information or events in their community?
- How do journalists write concise and focused news reports that give details about an event following the conventions of journalism writing?
- How do journalists write a feature article that teaches about a topic and engages a reader?
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Science

When we return from winter break, we will begin our Physical Science Unit: Structure and Properties of Matter.

Social Studies

Over the following weeks the students will be learning about the various Civil War battles and determine their significance to the war. The students will conduct research on each battle and work in small groups to develop a PowerPoint presentation explaining the multiple events. The students will then determine the goals of the Union army and sequence the post conditions of the Civil War.

Math

Students will be dividing by whole numbers and decimals. Many of the same strategies can be used for dividing decimals as were used with whole numbers. Decimal powers of 10 as well as estimating quotients will also be learned. **Continuing to practice basic facts will make these units much easier for students. There are many websites that can be used as well as old fashioned flashcards! Thank you for any support you can provide with this skill.**