

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade February Newsletter

### **ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)**

At the beginning of February, 5th graders will begin the **Reading** unit called "Argument and Advocacy". As before, students will continue receiving introductory lessons at the start of each session, and apply those lessons to non-fiction text, both print and online.

The enduring understandings of this unit include:

- In order to develop a strong argument, writers need to suspend judgment and read critically.
- Argument writers structure their writing to include claims supported by reasons and backed by evidence.
- Writers learn to craft effective arguments by studying the arguments of others.

The essential questions students will be able to answer include:

- How do writers sort, weigh, and order evidence in order to build a logical argument?
- How do writers structure their writing so that it includes claims supported by reasons and evidence?
- How do writers draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and 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.

In tandem with our Argument and Advocacy Reading unit, we begin our Research-Based Argument Essay **Writing** unit.

Enduring understandings include:

- Writers will develop and support a claim about a character or theme in a shared text.
- Writers will read with a wide-awakeness, noticing details, and then writing to grow ideas.
- Writers will draw on all they know about essay writing in order to plan, draft, edit and revise.

The essential questions students will be able to answer include:

- What should writers include in order to produce a strong literary essay?
- How can a writer continually strengthen their thesis statement?
- What information should be gathered and used to support my thesis?

### **Science**

Our February field trip to the planetarium is back on! 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be going to the EDMS planetarium the second week of February. Please send permission slips back in ASAP. Thank you!

In science, we will continue working in our Physical Science Unit. We will soon finish Experience 1 of the unit, where we made mini-lakes to explore and investigate how matter (water) transforms over time

considering weight and volume. During the month of February, we will work through Experience 2 and 3, during which time we will explore and investigate how matter (water) transforms and changes over time using a two-bottle system and how water transforms over time considering the properties of liquids and solids.

### **Math**

Math sees students refining their division skills with the added piece being decimals. Dividing with powers of 10, estimating using either rounding or compatible numbers, as well as long division will be learned. Following the division of decimals unit will be our first fraction unit. We will be making equivalent fractions using different denominators. Then, we will be adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators.

### **Social Studies**

As we continue in our unit of Immigration, students will be learning about what immigrants had to endure when they arrived in our country by taking a virtual tour to Ellis Island. Children will also be listening to some of the experiences of the children and elders who arrived to America and what the process was like for them and their families

**Please remember to be checking your child's planner each night to see what their homework was. Then, check with your child and see that it was completed. With disruptions to our schedule lately, we are seeing numerous students who are not completing all of their assignments. Thank you for your help and continued support!**