

5th Grade March Newsletter

Math: This month, we will be focusing on measurement topics. The first is Volume, with Customary and Metric Unit Conversion next. Students will need to know the conversions between customary lengths, capacity, and weights and the metric conversions. It is a lot of information, so practice at home would be appreciated. We have seen good progress with basic multiplication and division fact recall. Please continue to have your child practice using First in Math, Dreambox, 99 Math, or other online sites.

ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)

For the beginning of March, 5th graders will start 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 **Writing**, we will also be working on our Research-Based Argument Essay 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 and Social Studies

We are finishing our last few lessons in the Life Science unit and then will be going back to social studies to study Immigration. As we progress through 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 of Ellis Island. Children will also be listening to some of the experiences of the children and elders who arrived in America and what the process was like for them and their families.