

5th Grade January Newsletter

ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)

In the New Year, 5th graders will begin reading in our book club **Reading** unit called "Fantasy Book Clubs". As before, students will continue receiving introductory lessons at the start of each session, and apply those lessons to fiction and non-fiction text, both print and online. Ask your child what books they've read in this unit! Some have read as many as four!

The enduring understandings of this unit include:

- When reading fantasy books, readers construct and navigate other worlds.
- Readers learn real life lessons from fantastical characters.
- Fantasy characters are complex.
- The lessons we learn from reading fantasy can lift our reading of everything.

The essential questions students will be able to answer include:

- What are effective methods of constructing, navigating, and understanding fantasy worlds?
- How do life lessons and quests change fantastical characters?
- What are effective methods of learning about characters' complexities?
- How can readers apply the comprehension strategies from this fantasy unit to other genres?

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 Fantasy Book Club Reading unit, we will develop ideas for our fantasy writing unit.

Enduring understandings include:

- Writers write short stories to develop imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Writers produce short stories that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience and reflect coherent development and organization.
- Writers begin with a story arc and develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, and rewriting or trying a new approach.

Science

We will bring in the new year with a new science unit. The Grade 5 Physical Science Unit includes concepts focused on the *Structure and Properties of Matter* as well as *Chemical Reactions*. In this unit, the students will explore the properties of matter through transformations of water and how it changes over time. Students have been introduced to the Anchoring Phenomenon of the ships that are stranded

in a field where the Aral Sea existed many years ago. Through a series of hands-on investigations, students will investigate how and why the sea has changed over time.

Math

Students will begin creating equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. After this unit, we will be working in our 2nd math book. Look for it to come home to get "contact papered" to give it longevity!

Social Studies

We finished our unit on the Civil War, so we will be taking a break from history to focus on our science curriculum.