

October Newsletter for 5th Grade

ELA (Reading, Writing, and Word Work)

As we near October, we are wrapping up our introductory unit (Up the Ladder) in Reading. Students have completed the Reading Inventory (RI) and some students have been informally assessed using running records to gauge their reading comfort level. Students were able to select brand-new "just right" books from the many new selections we are proud to have in our pod library.

Our next unit is a non-fiction-based 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 assessments with their teacher during this unit.

The enduring understands 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 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.

For writing, students are drafting their "small moments" personal narrative. We will work on revising and editing. Students are becoming familiar with 5th grade narrative writing rubric, which focuses on the lead, body, closing, as well as transitions and elaboration. This unit will conclude mid-month, and then we will begin our Arguments and Advocacy (Persuasive Writing) unit.

Math

We are beginning our next unit which is Fluently Multiply Multi-Digit Numbers. A solid recall of basic facts is crucial to understanding how to multiply larger numbers. Please find time for your child to practice. There is a plethora of online practice games that kids will enjoy.

Science

We are continuing our Earth and Space Unit, which will take us through to late October. In this part of the unit, students will explore patterns of the Earth's **movement** and **placement** in the Universe as well as the effect that the Moon has on the Earth including the gravitational force that is exerted on Earth. Students will also discover our complex Solar System (the Earth and its planets, the Moon, the Sun, and the stars) and how patterns of daily changes in length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.

Social Studies

We will begin our first unit in Social Studies once science is finished. We will be starting our Civil War unit where we will identify several causes of the Civil War and why Maryland was a conflicted state during this time of history.