

P.S. 203 FIFTH GRADE NEWSLETTER



WHAT WE'RE LEARNING THIS MONTH:

Important Dates to Remember

Jan 2: School resumes
Jan 15: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; NO SCHOOL
Jan 18: Book Swap, 3:00–5:00 pm
Jan 19: Movie Night, 5:00–8:00 pm
(5th Grade Graduation Fundraiser)
Jan 24: Spirit Day: College & Career Day
Jan 24: Club Photo (for yearbook) & Retake Day

Reminders

- ★ Please check-in with your child to see if they need to replenish or replace any school supplies.
- ★ **Manners Matter! Please encourage our 5th graders to say Please, Thank You, Excuse Me, and to be good role models for our younger students.**
- ★ Remind students to wear a white shirt for assembly every Friday.

Into Reading

Module 5: Project Earth

In this module, students will read a variety of texts that present information about the Earth. A genre focus on persuasive text provides students with opportunities to identify the author's purpose and audience, in order to better understand unfamiliar texts. Students will also encounter realistic fiction, drama, and informational text to build knowledge across genres. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn that there are many ways to protect the future of the world around us.

Into Writing

Module 5: Editorial

In this module, students will write an editorial about an environmental issue they feel strongly about. Students will learn to:

- begin with a strong opening sentence
- state a clear thesis
- include strong supporting details
- consider other points of view
- end with a powerful conclusion

enVision Mathematics 2.0

Topics 8 & 9 will be assessed together on one test.

Topic 8: Multiplying Fractions (Volume 2*)

- Use models to multiply a whole number by a fraction and two fractions
- Multiply fractions and whole numbers, multiply two fractions and multiply mixed numbers

Topic 9: Dividing Fractions

- Understand how fractions are related to division
- Use models to show how dividing a whole number by a fraction relates to multiplication
- Divide whole number and unit fraction using number sense and multiplication
- Solve multi-step problems

***Please keep Volume 1 at home in a safe place. You will need it to review before the state test.**

Passport to Social Studies/ Civics

UNIT 1B: Geography of Canada & United States

- How did early people adapt to their environment and contribute to the development of the Western Hemisphere?
- How is the geography of the Western Hemisphere unique?

Amplify Science (with classroom teacher)

Ecosystem Restoration: Matter & Energy in a Rainforest

- What do plants and animals in an ecosystem need to grow and thrive?
- Where do food molecules and energy come from?
- How do scientists prove their claims are correct?

Your 5th Grade Teachers,

Mrs. Agnello, Mrs. A. Farrell, Mrs. K. Farrell, Mr. Mulryan, Ms. Popovits and Ms. Stavropoulos

HELLO, FAMILY!

Over the next three weeks, our class will build their knowledge about our planet, with a focus on the persuasive text genre. We will read texts and view videos about different things people do to care for the Earth and its living things. Children will also write an opinion essay about what they think people can do to make Earth a better place today and in the future.

BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child's knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is persuasive text. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts:

- That spark your child's curiosity.
- That tie to the module topic.
- In which an author presents evidence for or against something.
- In which the author asks readers to take action about an issue.

Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

The Big Idea Reinforce the topic words *contaminate*, *benevolent*, *imperial*, *endangered* in conversation with your child. Use prompts like these: What is the opposite of **contaminate**? Describe a **benevolent** person.

What Does It Mean? Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

Word Hunt Looks for words with the Latin root *bene* and the suffixes *-ive* and *-ure* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

Name _____

Apply Understanding of Multiplication to Multiplying Fractions

Dear Family,

In math class, your student will be learning how to multiply fractions and mixed numbers. Your student may have assumed that multiplying numbers always makes them larger, and dividing always makes a number smaller. He or she may be surprised at first that multiplying a number by a fraction less than 1 gives a product that is less than the original number, not more. Your student will also need to understand that $\frac{1}{3}$ of a number means $\frac{1}{3}$ times that number and is a way of expressing multiplication.

Here is an activity you can use to acquaint your student with the concept of finding a fraction of a fraction.

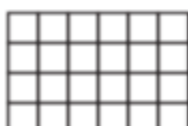
Taking a Part Apart

Each of the figures below represents the number 1 divided into fractional parts. Ask your child to shade a part of each figure on the left to represent the fraction above it. In the figure on the right, ask your child to shade only a part of the area he or she shaded before, so as to represent the fraction of a fraction above it.

1. one-sixth



one-fourth of one-sixth



2. one-half



one-third of one-half



Observe Your Child

Ask your child to use the figures to describe how the shading changed from the left to right figure. Have him or her write a new fraction for the figure on the right.

Name _____

Apply Understanding of Division to Divide Fractions

Dear Family,

In this topic, your student will be learning how to interpret a fraction as division of the numerator by the denominator and show quotients as fractions and mixed numbers. He or she will solve real-world problems involving division of unit fractions by non-zero whole numbers and division of whole numbers by unit fractions. A fraction with a numerator of 1 is a unit fraction.

Here is an activity you can use to acquaint your student with the concept of fractions as division.

Taking a Part Apart

In the division problems below, your child will use a visual model to find each quotient in the form of a fraction or mixed number. One way to find the quotient is to show the problem using rectangles or circles to represent the whole. To represent $2 \div 12$ for example, show 2 wholes, or circles, divided into twelfths. One of the twelfths in each whole are then shaded. Together, the shaded sections are equal to the quotient, $\frac{2}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$. After your child writes the quotient for $2 \div 12$, ask him or her to shade the other model and write the quotient for the remaining problem. Have your child shade one of the fourths in each of the wholes.

1. $2 \div 12 =$ _____



2. $6 \div 4 =$ _____



Observe Your Child

Write another division problem using whole numbers between 1 and 9. Have your child write the division problem as a fraction and then model the quotient using a diagram.