

P.S. 203 FIFTH GRADE NEWSLETTER



WHAT WE'RE LEARNING THIS MONTH:

Important Dates to Remember

Dec 8: Middle School Applications Due

Dec 12: Winter Concert @ 7:00 pm

Dec 13: PTA Holiday Boutique

Dec 14: Report Cards available

Dec 15: Winter Concert Assembly ❄️

Dec 22: PTA Holiday Assembly,

✨ S.O. Spirit Day: Sparkle & Shine! ✨

Dec 25-Jan 1: Holiday Break, NO SCHOOL

Jan 2, 2024: School resumes

Reminders

- ★ Students should remember to wear a white shirt for assembly every Friday.
- ★ Please sign your child's HW notebook daily.
- ★ Students should be reading for at least 30-40 minutes everyday for homework.
- ★ Please review our school's cell phone policy **which also applies to all smart watches.**

Into Reading

Into Reading Module 4: Wild West 🤠

Students will read a variety of texts about the people who settled the West. A genre focus on informational text provides students with opportunities to identify **central ideas, text structure, point of view, and author's craft techniques**. Students will also encounter historical fiction to build knowledge across genres. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about the settlers' varied experiences.

Writing/ Civics

Continue Project Soapbox (Argument Essay)

- Students will identify a community issue they care about and write a persuasive essay on why others should care about that issue.
- Students will engage in the writing and revision process and develop skills in persuasive and argumentative writing, research, speaking, listening, and compelling delivery.

Guiding Questions

- How can we affect change in our communities?
- What are the issues that we most want our communities and elected officials to address?
- How do we identify challenges and possible solutions?

enVision Mathematics 2.0

Topics 5 & 6 will be assessed together on one test.

Topic 6: Divide Decimals

- divide decimals by powers of 10
- estimate quotients
- model dividing decimals
- divide decimals by one a two-digit whole numbers and by other decimals

Topic 7: Add and Subtract Fractions

- Estimate sums and differences of fractions
- Add & subtract fractions with unlike denominators
- Use models to add and subtract mixed numbers
- Add and subtract mixed numbers

Passport to Social Studies

UNIT 1B: Geography of Canada & United States

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

Amplify Science (with classroom teacher)

Continue Patterns of Earth and Sky

- What causes the daily pattern of when we see the sun and other stars?
- What causes the yearly pattern of stars that we see?

Your 5th Grade Teachers,

Ms. 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 westward expansion, with a focus on the informational text genre.

We will read texts and view videos about how workers and families had varied experiences during the time of westward expansion.

Children will also write an expository essay about what made the settlers, pioneers, and workers in the West successful.

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 informational 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
- tie to the module topic
- express a clear central idea
- have a clear text structure (i.e., problem/solution, sequence, cause-and-effect)

Build Vocabulary

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

The Big Idea Reinforce the topic words *native*, *epic*, *midland*, and *victory* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: You are a **native** of _____. When have you experienced a **victory**?

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

Word Hunt Look for words with prefixes *mid-*, *trans-*, *mis-/mal-* and suffixes *-al*, *-ic*, *-ous/-ious*, *-able/-ible* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

Name _____

Use Models and Strategies to Divide Decimals

Dear Family,

In this topic, your student is learning to divide decimals by decimals and by whole numbers. He or she will be asked to divide decimals to the hundredths place in a variety of ways, including using models, strategies based on place value, and the standard algorithm. Your student will also develop proficiency in estimating when dividing decimals.

Try this activity with your student to help him or her practice dividing a decimal number by a whole number.

Share the Money

Materials: real or play dollar bills, dimes, and pennies

Step 1 Pose this problem: Three sisters want to share \$3.48 equally. How can they divide the amount equally? Display 3 dollar bills, 4 dimes, and 8 pennies.

Step 2 Have your student suggest some ideas for sharing the money equally. If needed, remind your student that a dime can be traded for 10 pennies.

Step 3 Work together to find the answer. Then have your student model the solution: Each sister gets 1 dollar bill, 1 dime, and 6 pennies. Have your student record the amount. (\$1.16)

Step 4 Repeat with the amount of \$2.94. (Each sister gets 9 dimes and 8 pennies; \$0.98.) Continue with other amounts of money that can be shared equally.

Observe Your Child

Ask your student to determine if the quotient of $3.6 \div 0.6$ is greater than or less than 3.6. Ask your student how he or she used number sense to decide.

Name _____

Use Equivalent Fractions to Add and Subtract Fractions

Dear Family,

In this topic, your student is learning how to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators. He or she will learn how to replace given fractions with equivalent fractions with like denominators. To add $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, for example, first rename $\frac{1}{2}$ as $\frac{3}{6}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ as $\frac{2}{6}$, and then add the numerators 3 and 2. The sum of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ is $\frac{5}{6}$. Your student will also learn how to estimate sums and differences of fractions.

You can help your student practice renaming fractions as equivalent fractions by playing a game together in which the players add fractions with unlike denominators.

Fraction Add-Up

Materials paper and pencil, index cards

Step 1 Make a set of fraction cards with one fraction shown on each card. Use fractions with numerators of 1 through 5 and denominators of 2 through 6.

Step 2 Player 1 turns over two cards and finds the sum of the two fractions shown. Then Player 2 turns over two cards and finds the sum of those two fractions. The player whose fractions have the greater sum wins.

Another Way to Play

- Both players turn over three cards and find the sum of their fractions.
- Each player records their sum.
- After 5 rounds, add each player's sums for each of the rounds.
- The player with the greater sum wins.

Observe Your Child

Turn over two cards and find an estimate of the sum of the fractions. Ask your student to explain how he or she used number sense to estimate.