

**5th Grade**  
**Mrs. Speer's, Miss Boler's, & Miss Stepanek's Classroom News**  
**2nd Quarter Newsletter**  
**2009-2010**

Dear Parents and Students,

We have an exciting 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter planned and are looking forward to spending more time with your child. The following items are a few reminders on how to succeed in 5th grade:

- Be responsible for your behavior
- Look good by keeping your shirt tucked in
- Write down all assignments/tests/quizzes in your assignment notebook
- Assignments must be turned in by 8:15
- Keep all books covered. Please check these, as many need to be recovered.
- Learning is fun!
- Relax and do your best!

**DARE** - Deputy C has been visiting our classrooms for the past month. Students have been learning different ways to say NO to drugs. In November, we will hold our DARE graduation and all parents are invited. More information will follow at a later date.

**Religion** - The students will learn about how prayer brings us closer to God. We are working on the Prayer of St. Francis. Our study of the seven sacraments will begin this quarter. The priests continue to visit our classes once a week. The children enjoy their visits and are enriched in faith. Please continue to encourage participation in Mass when you attend as a family.

**Language Arts -**

We will begin our new unit in reading where we will continue to focus on the skills of predicting, summarizing, and vocabulary. Towards the end of 2nd quarter, we will do another class novel, where we will apply the skills taught in our textbook. The students should be independently applying these skills as they read novels at school as well as at home.

Please keep listening to your children read aloud to you. This not only increases the sight vocabulary, it aids in comprehension and fluency.

The students are studying the different types of nouns and verbs. We will continue working on our writing skills (sentence and paragraphs). With the Six Traits of Writing, we are focusing on the trait of organization. Students are learning and developing skills to put their ideas and information in a logical order in their writing. Please help your child proofread his/her homework for this skill and for conventions. Many are forgetting that sentences begin with a capital letter and end in punctuation. This skill is not just for English papers, but must be carried over into all subject areas.

The students continue to practice spelling words used in their daily writing. Learning to recognize misspelled words is a valuable skill. On Monday, a pretest is given and on the last day of the week the final is given.

**Social Studies** - Our focus during second quarter will be on the exploring the settling of America. We will continue to develop study skills using our text, as well as a variety of other materials. It is important for students to keep up with assignments and avoid having to cram for quizzes and tests. We will continue to practice and discuss ways to study and review. We will also continue our work on geography skills as the quarter progresses.

**Math** - During the 2nd quarter we will begin using many of the new concepts learned this year. Students will be exploring multiplication and division patterns of whole numbers, while estimating the products. We will expand this concept as we multiply and divide whole numbers with decimals, and finally multiply and divide decimals with other decimals.

**Science** - Our fifth grade scientists have been busy learning how to take notes, study for tests, and how to take tests. We have employed various methods of learning material through reading, writing, watching videos, and doing hands on experiments. We have just finished our unit study of the ear and sound. Now we will begin our unit studies on motion and simple machines. We will be doing experiments with marbles & Hot Wheel cars in relationship to the Laws of Motion in December.

**Music** - During second quarter students in 5th grade will be able to:

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of vocal music including traditional holiday songs
- Demonstrate understanding of meter signatures "2/4", "3/4", "4/4", and "6/8"
- Listen to, analyze, and describe varied styles of music
  
- Be introduced to the music and lives of Haydn and Beethoven
- Improvise vocally and with classroom instruments
- Expand recorder-playing ability.

**BIG NEWS:**

**WE HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE OMAHA SYMPHONY LINKUP! PROGRAM! 5TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A BOOK AND TRAINING TO PLAY RECORDER WITH THE OMAHA SYMPHONY AT THE HOLLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN MARCH! We hope to have an Omaha Symphony player as a mentor who will help prepare each 5th grade music class for this experience. Stay tuned for more information regarding this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!!**

**P.E.-** In physical education, students are finishing their fitness testing using the Prudential Fitness gram. We will continue to work on our fitness throughout the year doing various fitness activities/games that are associated with the current unit. Students will begin a Volleyball unit after conferences. We will start with associated Volleyball skills and play lead-up games. At the end of the unit, students will play a regulation game and will be tested on their knowledge of the game. Upon returning from break, students will work on low organizational games, scooters, foxtails and fitness.

**Spanish** – Continue working on the alphabet and complete a project using the Spanish alphabet

- Work on Spanish weather conversation unit (How's the weather? It's hot, it's cold)
- Discuss the story of Our Lady of Guadeloupe around the feast day (Dec. 12)
- Review me gusta, no me gusta

**Computer** -Q2 Focus: Internet Safety, Electronic Research, & Word processing

Ask your child if they know your house rules for using the Internet and what the rules are here at school. Have them tell you about the RAD CAB for Internet research: Relevancy, Appropriateness, Detail, Currency, Authority, & Bias, which are all needed to verify if information on the Internet is trustworthy to use!

Software: MicroSoft Word

Students type page heading, sentences, and paragraphs and then edit their own work with the use of the spell checker.

Classroom Integrated Project: Virtual Field Trip to be coordinated with the classroom teacher, the Information Center, and the Computer Lab.

Keyboarding: Software: Sunburst's Type to Learn. Students will continue with their self-paced lessons 1-12 to practice and reinforce the following concepts: proper posture, home row placement of fingers, skill & technique, and timed writings for accuracy.

Technical Tips: Use of the Escape Key and the "Three-Key Combo" Ctrl + Alt + Delete

#### **Art -**

The fifth graders are already learning to create three dimensional drawings with one-point perspective. Further into the second quarter we will be expanding on what the fifth graders learn in social studies about Native Americans. The students will understand the influences of the Native Americans to make due with what they had and use it to enhance their lifestyles. They will be creating a coil bowl out of clay like the Southwest Native Americans and will be voting on one of a variety of choices for the other project. They will also be creating a chart for the different regions and influences of America's ancient people

**We are looking forward to a very successful 5th grade year!**