



5th Grade Newsletter

October 2016

Fifth Grade News

Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Amalfitano Miss Bailey, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. McCabe, Mrs. Patton, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Stephanos

Broadkill River Water Quality Field Trip

— Our first field trip is Monday, October 31st. Patton, Bailey, & Pierce homerooms will leave MES at 8:45 am. They will go to Lewes and get on the Cape Water Taxi for a fun boat ride up the Broadkill River. They will stop and take water samples along the way. These classes will need to have a packed lunch. They will return to Milton around noon. Mrs. Allen, Mrs. McCabe, and Mrs. Madden's homerooms will walk to the Milton Park and board the boat at noon. They will reach Lewes about 2:30 pm and get back to school around 3:00. These classes will need to be picked up by parents.

WIN Groups - We are so excited to have started WIN groups in fifth grade. Every day students receive an extra forty minutes of reading or math instruction. We have divided the students into groups based on their individual needs. Those who need extra help are going to get it, and those who need a challenge are in for some real head scratchers!

Common Core State Standards -

Each month, we will feature two standards that we are currently working on in the classroom.

ELA Informational 5.2: Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.OA.B.3

Generate two numerical patterns using two given rules. Identify apparent relationships between corresponding terms. Form ordered pairs consisting of corresponding terms from the two patterns, and graph the ordered pairs on a coordinate plane.

MES Services - Quite a wealth of services are available to parents/families through MES. If you have questions about any of these, please do not hesitate to contact the school!

- Back Pack Weekend Food Program
- Strengthening Families Program Parenting Classes
- Food Pantry
- School-Based Counseling
- Family Therapist
- Free Breakfast/Lunch for all students
- School Supplies
- Winter Coats/Hats/Gloves
- AM Student Drop-off 7:00am (Front Steps)
- After School Care- Boys and Girl Club (until 6:00pm)

October/November Dates

Oct. 13	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Oct. 14	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 7	End of the First Marking Period
Nov. 8	Election Day - NO SCHOOL
Nov. 10	Returns Day - NO SCHOOL
Nov. 11	Veterans Day - NO SCHOOL
Nov. 21	Report Cards
Nov. 23-25	Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

Reading

We will finish up our *Heritage* unit with our final two stories, *Miss Ida's Porch* and *In Two Worlds*. Our skill focuses will be main idea, plot, and compare and contrast. We will soon take the Unit 1 Assessment, and move forward into the *Energy at Work* unit. In this unit, we will be reading stories about Benjamin Franklin, tornadoes, wind energy, and science fairs. The comprehension of non-fiction texts will be a focus during this unit. We will be working on lots of reading skills and strategies such as identifying text structures, cause and effect, context clues, summarizing, and drawing conclusions. Please continue to have your child read for at least 15 minutes each night, and complete their reading log. If possible, take time to discuss what your child read with them.

Writing

We are in the midst of our narrative writing unit, focusing on following the steps of the writing process to produce engaging and detailed narratives. We have written stories about personal memories, concentrating on using engaging leads, transition words, and dialogue. In the spirit of the upcoming World Series, we will conclude our unit with a performance task requiring students to write an imaginative narrative from the point of view of Honus Wagner, one of the first baseball players to be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame. We will be focusing on using sensory details, and writing effective conclusions.

Social Studies

In this presidential election year, we will continue studying the electoral process through mid-November. Students have been learning why it is important to vote and how to make informed decisions when voting. We will be using Scholastic News skill books to learn:

- The role of the president in our government
- Who the candidates for president are this year
- How candidates campaign and how the president is elected

- Some of the key issues the next president will have to deal with
- The importance of voting and how voting rights have changed over the years

Also, we are getting ready to start a political party project where students are grouped according to “issues” in the school. Students will be creating a platform, designing a poster, and campaigning by creating a political commercial. We feel as citizens of the United States, it is imperative for these students to learn the impact they can have when their voice is expressed and heard.

Math

In math, we have just finished up Unit 2, and are moving on to Unit 4- What's that Portion? In this unit, we will explore fractions and decimals. These concepts will consume most of our fifth grade year, as we will be adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, ordering and comparing throughout each unit. Students' previous knowledge will be expanded upon as we go to the next level. We are also working on performance tasks in class, which will require us to use high-level thinking in problem solving. Please continue to practice basic multiplication and division facts at home, as these skills are imperative for our daily tasks.

Science

Science class is really busy. We are studying “Ecosystems.” We built terrariums and planted them with grass, alfalfa and mustard. We added crickets and isopods to the terrarium. Ask your child to tell you how plants depend on animals and how animals depend on plants. Each team also built aquariums complete with fish, snails, & plants. We don't feed anything. They are able to survive on their own. Isn't that great? Understanding the interconnectedness of plants, animals and the non-living things in the environment is the goal of this part of the unit. Our field trip will help connect this part of the unit with part 2—the human impact on the ecosystem.