



5th Grade Newsletter

September 2016

Fifth Grade News

Welcome Back! We are off to a great start in 5th grade!

Curriculum Night - On Wednesday, September 21st we will hold our annual 5th Grade Curriculum Night. Please join us to learn more about what happens on a daily basis in your child's classroom. Dinner will be provided at no charge from 5:15-6:00. We will then move to the classrooms where the teachers will present information on grade level policies and curriculum. We hope you are able to join us!

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) - At MES, we are focused on recognizing and reinforcing positive behavior throughout the school. Students earn cool kid coupons by following our school rules. These cool kid coupons can then be redeemed for reward, prizes, and privileges. For example, at the end of this month we have our first MES PBS Pep Rally! Students from Cape Henlopen High School will be visiting our school to demonstrate fall athletics, with an exciting performance from the drum line. Students can use their coupons to purchase a gold streamer and other items for this event. Also, classrooms will be trying to earn "gotcha" tags throughout the building. When a staff member rewards a classroom with a "gotcha" tag, the tags will be joined together to form a chain. When the chain reaches a certain length, the class will earn a reward! Finally, keep an eye out for more information about our 5th grade SWAG tags. These are special tags our students can earn for going above and beyond in behavior, effort, perseverance, achievement, etc.

Attendance - Regular attendance is imperative to school success. Please send students to school unless they are sick. If your child is absent, please send a signed note to school within 3 days explaining their absence.

FAME - FAME is our after school program at MES. Students get an hour of tutoring and homework help, and then an hour of a fun club activity. A snack is also provided. Space is limited, so we encourage you to sign your child up today. If you need another application, please ask your child's teacher.



September/October Dates:

Sept. 21 - Curriculum Night 5:15-7:00pm
Sept. 22 - Board Meeting @ BMS 6:00pm
Sept. 30 - PBS Pep Rally
Oct. 5 - 1st Marking Period Mid-Point
Oct. 7 - Spirit Day
Oct. 7 - Picture Day
Oct. 13 - Evening Conferences
Oct. 14 - NO SCHOOL

Reading

We are off and running in reading! We have started our first unit in *Imagine It!*, *Heritage*. The first story we are reading is called *The Land I Lost*. Ask your child to tell you all about it! As we move through the first unit we will be emphasizing important reading skills such as identifying theme, writing summaries, inferencing, comparing and contrasting, and point of view. We will also be using small group instruction and literacy centers to reinforce and practice comprehension skills, fluency, vocabulary, language skills, and spelling. Additionally, each day students will be independently reading self-selected books (on their level). During this time, the teachers will conference with individuals or small groups to target specific reading skills and improve comprehension. Students can also use these self-selected book for their nightly 15 minutes of reading.

Writing

This year, writing will be in the “Writing Workshop” format. This is a designated time when students become authors. Our lessons are taken primarily from the Lucy Calkins Units of Study in addition to 6 + 1 Writing Traits instruction. Students will learn to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish original pieces of writing throughout the school year. We will start out by reviewing the various steps of the writing process and learning the features of a personal narrative. Lessons will include dialogue, transition words, and descriptive details. Our first major writing piece will be a personal narrative based off of the items students shared in their Memory Bag.

Social Studies

It’s election time! And it’s an election like we’ve never seen before. That’s what we will be concentrating on until the election happens in November. We will be learning where the candidates stand on the issues, and why it is important to know about the candidates before making a decision on whom to vote for. We will learn the process one must go through to become president. We will discuss who can run for president and who can vote in an elec-

tion. We will also participate in the national “Student Mock Election” that is held just before the real national election. Exciting times ahead as we watch and learn where this election will take us!

Math

In math, September always begins with assessments. The assessments are important for us to find out where the students’ strengths and weaknesses are so we can plan appropriate lessons to meet the needs of all. The first unit of study in RTI focuses on multiplication and division strategies and building number sense. In addition to learning two and three digit multiplication/division, we will be finding factors, multiples, prime numbers, composite numbers, and square numbers. In class, we will be starting with unit 2, which is a geometry unit, working with prisms and pyramids. We will discuss volume, area, perimeter and other forms of 2 and 3-d measurements. These are given out on Friday and contain skills needed in math! Also, any math book or resource (journal or Student Activity Book) is to stay at school, as the students are responsible to bring them to class each day.

Science

Our first unit of study is Ecosystems. The interdependence of plants and animals is the primary focus at the beginning of the unit. We will be building terrariums and aquariums in soda bottles and watching how both plants and animals are able to survive with just an occasional bit of water added to the terrarium. We will study food chains and webs and the various roles organisms can play in that system. We will be exploring the ecosystem right behind the playground—the outdoor classroom on Wagon’s Pond. We are working on a field trip to enrich students’ understanding, but the details are still being worked out. We’ll let you know more once things are finalized.