

# Fifth Grade Newsletter

PS 173 Q

December 2018

## READING WORKSHOP

In December, the students will be returning to their fiction books and will raise the level of interpretation work through book clubs and writing about their reading. The students will be studying their characters more analytically and will be engaged in rich conversations between their book club members. They will listen to various perspectives about ideas in their books. In addition, students will push their level of writing about reading by providing strong ideas and supporting it with evidence from the text.

Students are reading appx. 40 minutes without interruption each night. During this time, students should be continuing to monitor themselves as they read by stopping and jotting or questioning themselves about the text.

## WRITING WORKSHOP

In writing, students will be working on literary essays. As students draw on all the characters more analytically with various short texts, they will write essays about those short texts and establish a strong thesis statement and evidence to support their claim. They will search for quotes and write around the quotes to show how cited material supports an essayist's ideas.

## Important Dates:

12/7: PTA Holiday Shop  
12/11: Parent Coordinator Holiday Tradition workshop  
12/14: 5th Grade Committee Meeting  
12/18: Formal Assembly  
12/20: PTA Meeting / Ballroom Dance  
12/21: School Spirit day: Ugly Sweater  
12/24-1/1: Winter Recess  
1/2: School Re-opens

## MATH

In topic 6, students will use models and learn strategies to divide decimals. They will use place value patterns to help them divide decimals and use their prior knowledge of rounding to estimate quotients in problems with decimals.

In topic 7, students will be delving into fractions! Students will learn how to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators to solve problems.

## Social Studies

The Fifth Grade students will be studying Mexico! Topics of representative lessons in this unit include: exploring how key people and important events led to Mexico's independence from Spain, analyzing primary sources to compare and contrast different perspectives among Mexicans, Texans and Americans involving conflicts like the Alamo, the Mexican-American War and the Battles of Puebla and Cinco de Mayo, and identifying the impact of natural resources and industries on Mexico's economy. Lessons will also emphasize issues of civil rights and immigration in Mexico, where students will establish positions and present their opinions, providing support with relevant information and data.

## SCIENCE

In Patterns of Earth and Sky, students are asked to figure out and explain the significance of illustrations on a recently discovered thousand year old artifact with a missing piece, the anchor phenomenon for the unit. Students observe and investigate patterns in the sky by day and by night with kinesthetic models, as well as using a digital simulation, and informational text. They learn that stars are all around us in space, develop an understanding of scale and distance in the universe, and discover how the spin and orbit of our planet causes us to observe daily and yearly patterns of stars. Students apply their understanding of why we see different stars at different times to explain what is shown on the artifact, and what might be on the missing piece.

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