

September 5th Grade News

[Daily Homework Link](#): To verify homework

Upcoming Dates of Interest

September

13: Fox River Field Trip

17: Book Project Kick Off - Word Splash

28: Word Splash Celebration Day

TBA: Meadowmart staff applications and first meeting

October

16, 18 and 24rd: Conferences

31: Halloween party (Creative Costumes welcome)

[5th Grade Parent Guide](#)

Please click on this link and review the 5th grade expectations and policies. We are inspiring independent learners in 5th grade in preparation for middle school. PLEASE READ THROUGH THIS DOCUMENT!

Reading Workshop:

We have been working on rebuilding our reading stamina back up to 45 minutes per day in class. This allows us to focus and get lost in our books. We visualize as we read and then we have been writing 2-3 sentence summaries of the key events that happened in our stories during that reading period. The kids have been doing this each day in class and had to budget their home time over the course of the past week to complete 4 additional summary comments at home after the nightly 30 minutes of reading. Yes, that means that your child will be actively reading 60 minutes per day!! That is the best thing a person can do for building their skill and endurance for reading.

Other elements to our reading class includes a mini lesson which focuses on specific reading skills that I model in our Workshop classes. After seeing the model of the skill, they must work with their personal reading books to practice the skills. Our summary logs this week are an example of one of the skills that we have done so far. Other upcoming skills include Character trait analysis and evidence collecting from the

text, Story elements, theme identification and conflict in literature. Our "Word Splash" project is a culmination of these mini lessons and practice activities.

Writing Workshop: All About Me projects are wrapped up this week. We presented projects last week and learned about each others interests and skills. We have an impressive group of artists, athletes, musicians, dancers, skiers, book readers and movie lovers! The posters they have created are decorating our hallway!

Language Workshop:

We started our language study with our mentor text "Notable Notebooks: Scientist and their Writings". This showed the students how all of the most famous scientist in history used their notebooks to record their observations. Next, we will start the "Community" unit of mentor books. This will springboard our writing and reading activities.

MeadowMart

Our school store is called MeadowMart. It provides a school wide shopping opportunity for the students to make purchases of small items that the student-run staff sources, purchases, markets and sells once a month. The profits go to local charities and also support special projects at school. Last year they purchased 3 new basketball hoops for the playground! 5th Graders operate the store.

5th graders will be able to apply for a staff position this month and our first sale will be in mid October. This is a great opportunity for students to learn some of the real world skills it takes to operate a business. Financial literacy is a valued aspect of 5th grade. It requires students to miss some work time in class, so applicants must be organized and willing to work hard for others.

Math

We are working on place values and decimals in class. With decimals, we are developing the skills of comparing and rounding. Scientific notation will be coming soon. Any opportunity to reinforce these skills at home are appreciated. Ten Marks activities on the iPad will be starting next

week. They will be expected to complete assignments in Ten Marks each week.

Social Studies: We will be starting our social studies unit on geography in the next couple weeks. The students will be learning about the different regions of the United States, and about the different types of maps and how their used. We will be making salt maps and there will be a fun writing component to our final project.

Science: The students started studying the Water unit during our first week of school, and we will be traveling to the Fox River Sanctuary this week. We will conduct chemical and biological surveys of the Fox River and Marsh to determine how clean the water is. We will continue to learn about Waukesha's water issues in the coming weeks and how water can be protected by our actions. We will also tour an actual pumping station where we all get our water from in Waukesha.