

## 5th Grade January 2021 News



### Reading: Unit 4: Historical Fiction is about to begin

We are about to begin an in-depth study of Historical Fiction as a reading genre. Students will soon hear about the novels that we will be studying from. We will use Historical Fiction Picture Books to get us familiar with the genre. Then, we will be reading several of these books from different time periods in history. Our giant timeline in the 5th grade hallway will soon be filled with information that we learn about the past from these books. It is a great visual representation of the key events and culture of the past.

### Reading/Writing Workshop The Memoir Unit

Students are learning about the genre of Memoir. They are reading short memoirs that were written by famous authors about their childhood memories. They are also reading student created memoirs from middle school students to serve as examples. The 5th graders are now spending the first two weeks of the school year writing small stories related to the important people, places, objects, pets and experiences that have shaped their young lives. This is a challenge because they really have to think about WHY someone or something is important to them. They have to analyze a relationship for its most valuable qualities. The writing that is coming from these kids is pretty amazing! Ask your child about their memoir topics and you may be inspired as well.

### Math

We are full force into our Fractions Unit. This will be the first of two units where we study fractions, but they will continue to be used throughout the year. This unit focuses on converting improper fractions into mixed numbers, and back again. We are also learning how to find common denominators, add and subtract common fractions, as well as add and subtract mixed numbers. These skills will come in handy when we get to our Measurement Unit later in the year.

## Science

We are in the middle of working on our balloon cars. Students are being challenged to create a balloon powered car which is made out of recycled materials, and that car must travel 5 meters. This is a project that includes a lot of trial and error, along with a healthy dose of innovation. We will be racing these cars across the gym floor in the very near future. This project is accompanied by a student created YouTube video which explains their building process, positives, critiques, and changes they would make if they had to do it all over again.

### A Note about Charging iPads, Keyboards and Ipad cases....

A number of students got new Ipad cases and keyboards for Christmas gifts. These are becoming highly coveted in the classroom by other students. If your child is asking you for one, please know that they are welcome to use them in the classroom but the kids are responsible for their purchase and care. Cases must be as durable as the ones the school provides.

Students are now being charged 100 Dollars if they do not have their iPads at school and FULLY CHARGED in the morning. We have had too many instances where students are not prepared with their devices for school. Please help them build a good habit of charging their iPads overnight EVERY night. Thank you!!