

5th Grade Monthly Update

February 2021

Upcoming Dates to watch for:

February

11: Conferences

12: Valentine's Day Party @ 3:00 **Red, White, and Pink Spirit Day**

16: Conferences



Transition to middle school:

Then school counselors from Butler Middle School were in to meet with the students and give them a taste of what life at Butler is like. It is the first transition activity that will help them begin to prepare for their move to middle school. We will also continue to give them organization strategies that will ease this transition. We will continue to clamp down more on the regular and COMPLETE use of their assignment notebooks on a daily basis. Please reinforce this each night by actually **asking to see their work** that is listed in their notebook. This will also give you a chance to monitor the work quality.

Lockers are coming in May: We will empty the kids desks into boxes in the hall that will serve as their “lockers” for the last 6 weeks of the year. This will help them start organizing themselves in a new way and will ultimately ease the transition for next fall.

Reading Update:

We are beginning Unit 4: Relationships! We are also focusing on Black History Month with some historical and influential texts. They are studying how authors present history through authentic stories about realistic characters from different moments in time. What can we learn about the past by reading these stories? They are really gaining some historical perspective in a way that will hopefully make sense to them. Rather than memorizing rote dates, the literature should help them understand the life of the people from history as well as the themes that were present in the past.

Writing:

We just completed our Personal Narrative Writing unit and will begin our next writing tasks which involve Mind Mapping their text in a visual and multimedia way. Students are also completing weekly “on demand” writing blog entries and prompt writing topics. This focussed writing activity will help your child organize their thoughts on a prompt and then complete the writing process in a short period of time. This is a valuable task to gain experience with.

Grammar instruction continues with the personalized learning tool, www.noredink.com . Students are currently working on verbs, verb tense and subject-verb agreement.

Math:

In math class, we will be working on our multiplication and division of fractions unit. In this unit, we are going to be solving fractions problems using area models, and standard algorithm. While the standard algorithm method is faster and more efficient, the area model helps us explain why the other method works.

Science:

We have started making our balloon cars here in class. This is a process of creation and destruction, along with problem solving. Students will be going through a design and construction process, while trying to troubleshoot along the way. The goal of this project is to get your car to travel five meters. We will also create a Youtube video explaining our building process and changes we would make if we had a second crack at this problem.