

5th Grade Newsletter

October 2020

Conferences: 5th Grade is a little different

Great conversations!! Positive goals!! Conferences will be a wonderful chance for us to have some conversations about goals and expectations. Mr. Conforti and Mrs. Doolittle are looking forward to **having 10 minutes to spend with you** discussing strengths and learning goals as well as looking at some student work. Please make sure that you allot for extra time in between your children's conferences because our's is truly a 10 minute conference.

Some consistent themes that you will hear in this year's conferences will be as follows:

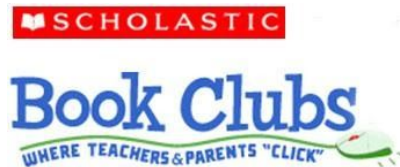
1. Please check on your child's homework each night. They need their assignment notebooks signed each night, ideally it is signed after they have also shown you their work. Please check on the overall quality of this work. If you can't read it (poor handwriting) please remind them that I can't either. Have them fix it before they get to school and they will have more success in school.
2. Nightly reading is a part of the regular homework. Reading is about thinking! To help your child, discuss the books with them. Ask them about their books on a regular basis. Discuss character traits, connections that they are making to the stories and talk about the dynamic characters that they are encountering. Can they compare their books to others? Can they compare their characters to others?
3. The 5th Grade Google Classroom page has the important announcements and is updated each day. Please use this link. We are seeing too many unfinished assignments from some students. Please check to ensure work is ready for school the next day. We like the "trust but verify" style of parenting. *I trust them to do a good job on their work, but I verify that they have everything done each day by checking their classroom websites to make sure they didn't forget anything.*

Book Orders

Your child will bring home a Scholastic book order each month. If you choose to order books, please return the order form and a check made out to Scholastic in an envelope with your child's name on it. If the books are going to be a gift or surprise, please let me know and Mrs. Blaedow will call you when the order arrives.

The online option is great for many reasons. You can choose from a much-wider selection of books than in the printed flyer. You can order from any of the grade level sale flyers so as to meet your child's reading level more accurately. Plus, you can send your orders directly to me online and use your credit card to pay. Best of all, we earn a FREE book for the classroom library every time a parent places an order online. It's so simple!

Here's how it works:



1. SIGN UP at www.scholastic.com/bookclubs.
2. On the parent page, register by clicking click the “Don’t have a user name or password?” link.
3. When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation Code shown above. This unique code ensures that your order is sent to me. Web address:
www.scholastic.com/bookclubs
Class Activation Code: HC2M7
4. SELECT the books you’d like to order—choose from thousands of titles—many more than in our monthly flyers.

PARENT INVITE: Please check out the article about the [importance of reading and developing a life long reader.](#)

Current and Upcoming Units of Study:

Reading: We have started our guided groups in Reading Workshop. They will be enjoying a variety of text and having some thoughtful discussions along the way. As a part of the Lit Discussion Groups, they will be reading and writing a lot about the story elements, their thoughts about the book and how it relates to this Unit’s theme “Relationships”. They must write thoughtful questions that promote a good conversation. They have to avoid simple questions that are answered in just a few words. We will work through the different aspects of a book discussion process. GOOD readers are constantly looking for key vocabulary words, thinking of discussion questions, making connections to other texts, characters and their own lives.

Writing: Students are finishing their first Personal Narrative pieces. They did a great job at working their way through the Writing Process. Revising is emphasized in 5th grade. The kids will tell you that there are many ways to say the same thing. *How you choose to say something is more important* and that is why we spent so much time revising. We also learned some new editing strategies including : Reading the piece backwards (sentences in reverse order, not literally backwards). This allows us to focus on the individual sentence meaning more than “what we wanted it to say”. This is an eye opening activity.

We will also be starting keyboarding lessons! This is a very important 21st century skill that needs to be developed. The Typing Club online program is what we are using and students are encouraged to practice at home if you have a keyboard/home computer. These skills are not to be practiced on their ipad touch screen keyboards, they are not large enough and don’t allow for the home row finger positions.

Math: We were able to finish up our first unit on place value and decimals last week. This week we started our unit on multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction with the use of decimals. There will be some small quizzes for each section of this unit. At home, you can go over multiplication facts with your child. Knowing your multiplication facts will not only help with this unit, but also the rest of the year. We have a new program called Matific. This program is replacing Ten Marks from last year, and so far the students have expressed a lot of positive feedback.

Social Studies: We have officially started our first social studies unit. The class is working on mapping. This unit includes the different types of maps, what can go on a map, and creating two different types of maps as a culminating activity. The students will be creating a physical map where they will be expected

to show elevation through color. We will also be creating a tourist map which shows tourist attractions that the students create.

Tech NED:

This month, we are focusing on Internet Safety. While you are online, remember, there are many inappropriate websites out there. To stay safe online, make sure you are only visiting websites that are suggested by your parents or your teachers. If you happen to come across an inappropriate website, ask your parents or your teacher to help you block the site. Show your parents your favorite websites, so they can help you stay safe. You should know that there are people online who might try to get your private, personal information. Don't share personal information online.