

February News

February 2019

Mr. Hayes & Ms. Shilale

Grade 5

"If you study to remember, you will forget, but, if you study to understand, you will remember."
-author unknown

It is hard to believe the year is half over already. The children continue to work hard and impress us with their knowledge and effort on a daily basis. They are kind-hearted and cooperative with one another. Please continue to encourage diligence and consistency on their nightly homework... thank-you for your support! Enjoy the winter vacation with your families.

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."

-Booker T. Washington

ELA

In ELA we are still "digging deep" into the novel, *Holes*. The students are engaged to the max and truly enjoying the dynamics of the characters. We are slowly but surely learning that this camp isn't just to build character, but to do the "dirty work" for the warden of the detention facility.. This book is without a doubt very entertaining, and the author uses multiple plot lines from the past and present to keep us on our

toes. We will be composing a compare and contrast essay, analyzing the author's message, and discussing character transformation. Ask your student who their favorite character is! (Mine is Zero)

Next, we are about to start our second round of "book club". Student will be independently reading a novel and at the end of each week, they will be meeting in their book club to discuss what they read. The power of discussion is vital towards their ability to comprehend complex text.

Homework reminder: Please read at least a chapter a night to exercise the love of reading! Pick a book of your choice and learn unique writing techniques, see the grammar rules we see in DLP, and copy word choice from your favorite authors. The more you read the better your writing becomes! Also, continue to work on your grammar spiral homework. If you don't understand something (yet), ask Mr. Google, or make an educated guess.

Last, but not least, please make sure to get your "Homework Challenge" completed by Friday. Each week you will either have multiple choice and a TIDE essay or you will be writing a narrative over a two week period.

MATH

This month, we will finish a unit on Geometry. So far, we have explored lines, angles, polygons, triangles, and

quadrilaterals. The students used their geometry template to measure and draw angles. They also worked with coordinates and ordered pairs. In addition to locating and plotting points on a coordinate grid, the students had to find the distance between points. Finally, they will explore the mathematics and art of tessellations - patterns of shapes that cover a surface without gaps or overlaps.

Students can practice their math skills by playing the following games (for detailed instructions, see the Student Reference Book):

- **Angle Tangle**
- **Hidden Treasure**

Our next unit is "Operations and Algebraic Thinking". In this unit, the children will be writing, interpreting, and evaluating numerical expressions using the order of operations. The students will also analyze patterns and identify apparent relationships between corresponding terms. Lastly, the students will form ordered pairs (consisting of corresponding terms from two patterns) and graph them on a coordinate grid.

The students will also continue to practice the skill of "estimating" sums, differences, products, and quotients. Congratulations to our January estimation winners:

- * Aidan Powers
- * Angelo Suljman
- * Eva Carmona
- * Donovan Brooks

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, we are building background on early America and colonization. The children will explore the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. They will really enjoy learning about the significance of the Mayflower Compact by analyzing primary source documents. The students will also learn about how the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies developed unique cultures. They will compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the different colonies.

SCIENCE

In science, the students will begin learning about "The Properties of Matter." They will focus on the "Big Idea" that all matter has properties that can be observed, described, and measured. The essential questions they will explore are:

- **Lesson 1: What Is the Structure of Matter?** In this lesson, students will learn that matter has mass and takes up space, and that matter is made up of atoms. Students will also learn about the elements that make up all matter.
- **Lesson 2: What Are Physical Properties and Changes?** In this lesson, students will learn that matter can change states at different temperatures. They will also learn about mixtures and solutions.

SCIENCE...IXL

In science, we have been using a website called IXL in our classroom this year. IXL is a comprehensive learning program offering unlimited science practice across thousands of skills - all of which are aligned to Massachusetts standards. One of the best things about IXL is that your child can access it from home, so you have a chance to see your child's progress!

IXL is designed to help your children learn at his or her own pace. The program is adaptive and will adjust based on your child's demonstrated understanding of the material. All of your child's results will be saved, so you can monitor his or her progress anytime by clicking on Analytics. For on-the-go practice, you can download IXL's free tablet apps for iPad, Android, or Kindle and sign-in with your child's username and password.

I hope you'll encourage your child to use IXL regularly!

SCIENCE...Project's Fair

A science-fair project is a great way to excite children about science, teach them to think like scientists, develop their organizational skills, and enhance their writing and oral-presentation skills.

All students have been given handouts ("Informational Packet") in class that explain the process of conducting a science-fair project and guide them on their way. The bulk of the students work will be completed at home. I hope that you will offer your child support and encouragement and monitor his or her progress in the coming weeks. At the same time, I ask that you keep in mind that the project is your child's responsibility. By limiting your involvement, your child will receive the full educational benefits of the science fair.

Upcoming Due Dates:

- **3-5-19:** "Completed Projects due in class"

Valentine's Day Party...

For those students wishing to participate in the exchange of valentines, please use the attached class list as a reference (students **MUST** bring in a valentine for everyone!).

- **When:** *Thursday, Feb. 14th*
- **Where:** *Gr. 5 Classrooms*
- **Time:** *2:00*

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Our next Grade 5 pizza party fundraiser will be on **Thursday, February 14th** (*the day of our classroom Valentine's Day Party*).

\$6.00 to participate

So far, between our first two pizza parties and the raffle, we have made a total profit of \$698.00...**wow!**

ALL money raised will be used:

- to defray the cost of our "Boston" field trip. (*June 5th ...we already sent in a deposit.*)
- to supply refreshing treats on those warm spring afternoons.

WISH LIST

If you are able to donate any of the following items to our classroom, we would greatly appreciate it!

MR. HAYES & MS. SHILALE

- Dry Erase Markers (Mr. Hayes)
- Clorox Wipes

A FEW REMINDERS

- Report Cards will be sent home the week of Feb. 4th.
- Our February vacation will begin on Monday, February 18th. The students and staff will return to school on Monday, February 25th.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at:

hayesd@worcesterschools.net
shilalea@worcesterschools.net

and we will be happy to set up a time to discuss them with you.

