

# October News

October 2019

Mr. Hayes & Ms. Shilale

Grade 5

This has been a GREAT beginning to the school year! It is hard to believe we are halfway through the 1st term already. Your children have been working diligently, and continue to impress us with their positive attitude and dedication to their studies.

It was nice meeting / seeing many of you on "Know Your School Night". We look forward to a successful year working together!

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*"The more you read,  
the more you know.*

*The more you know,  
The smarter you grow.*

*The smarter you grow,  
The stronger your voice.*

*When speaking your mind  
or making your choice."*

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## ELA

In ELA, we continue to focus on strategies for comprehension:

- **G:** *Read and create Gist.*
- **U:** *Underline the question.*
- **T:** *Taking notes carefully.*
- **S:** *Seek the evidence.*

We have begun the realistic fiction novel, Earthquake Terror, in class. Students are analyzing the fiction elements and "plotting" them on a plot arc. Along with studying fiction elements, students will soon begin working on a "scarative" (narrative) story in which they will have to incorporate these elements. Please ask your child about exposition, setting, protagonist, antagonist, rising action, turning point, conflict, climax, falling action, resolution, and theme.

Please practice strong vocabulary when speaking to your child...in turn it enhances their speaking, reading, and writing.

## MATH

In math, we recently completed a unit on Number Theory. We explored factors, divisibility rules, prime numbers, prime factorizations, and exponents. The students really enjoyed

working with prime numbers. They worked on "The Sieve of Eratosthenes" and "Goldbach's Conjecture", which are on display on the bulletin board outside the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

We are now working with decimals. In this unit, students will read, write, compare, order and round decimals. Also, students will review / practice their computation skills by adding and subtracting decimals.

Computation is an important part of problem solving. However, it is usually not the first step in the problem-solving process. One must first decide which operations need to be performed. In this unit, your child will continue to develop his or her problem-solving skills with a special focus on "...Understanding the Problem". The students will also continue to practice the skill of "estimating" sums, differences, and products.

Congratulations to our September Estimation "student" winners:

- **Madison Lee**
- **Jake Papadopoulos**
- **Kate Zamarro**

Also, congratulations to our KYSN "parent" estimation winner as well:

- **Josh Engel (Sophia's dad)**

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies curriculum in 5<sup>th</sup> grade focuses on early Americans. We begin with the first Americans who crossed the landbridge from Asia to North America. We discuss the idea of how people adapt to new environments. After learning the different Native American cultures and what they did to survive, we will delve into the European explorers of the Middle Ages.

## SCIENCE

In science, the children had fun being "scientists". They learned about the "Scientific Method" by completing an experiment with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Levers. The children went through all parts of the scientific process:

- *Asking A Question*
- *Gathering Information*
- *Writing A Hypothesis*
- *Conducting an Experiment*
- *Analyzing Data*
- *Writing A Conclusion*

Their task was to work with a group and "prove" the "Law of Equilibrium" for 1<sup>st</sup> Class Levers. Ask your children what they found out!

Also in Science, the children will be learning about the "Earth, Moon, and Beyond." The students will focus on the "Big Idea" that Earth is part of a solar system, which is made up of many different objects orbiting a sun. The essential questions they will explore are:

- **Lesson 1:** How Does Earth's Orbit Affect the seasons?

- **Lesson 2:** How Do Earth and the Moon Compare?
- **Lesson 3:** What Makes Up Our Solar System?

It will be fun!

## SCIENCE...Projects Fair

Your child will be completing a science project this year. A science-fair project challenges a student to answer a question using the scientific method. It 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.

Look for a "Science Project's Fair" informational packet to be sent home later this month along with more information regarding our annual "Science Night" to be held here at school.

## MOEMS...Math Olympiads

Math Olympiads is a program designed for children who enjoy and need challenging material...highly skilled problem solvers! In Math Olympiads, students work together on problem solving strategies and practice problems. Then, once a month, complete individual competitions (*against over 70,00 students from around the world!*). Let's wish the following 5th grade "Mathletes" the best of luck this year:

*Lauren Church  
Owen Henderson  
Madison Lee  
Owen Rucki  
Dennis Simakoff  
Hannah Suyer  
Travis Thomas  
Cate Zamarro*

*Kosta Gidopoulos  
Danny Kristo  
Cassidy Pitney  
Kayla Savory  
Victoria Start  
Rachel Suyer  
Ava Wells  
Tony Zamarro*

## A FEW REMINDERS

- Progress Reports will be sent home on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our annual West Tatnuck Halloween Parade / classroom party will take place on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> (**more details to follow**)
- Our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 5 pizza party will be on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> (**more details to follow**)
- Your child should be reading 20 - 30 minutes a night and reflecting on how good authors enhance their writing. Parents, please discuss the reading with your child and get involved with their homework book. The more your child verbalizes and shares their predictions and opinions, the deeper they will understand the book. When I check their writing, I look for enhanced writing, the amount of pages read, the time, and a parent's signature. Thank you for your support!
- Math homework is assigned EVERY Monday - Thursday evening! Also, encourage your children to work on the "Weekend Math Challenge" over the weekend!
- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at:

[shilalea@worcesterschools.net](mailto:shilalea@worcesterschools.net)  
[hayesd@worcesterschools.net](mailto:hayesd@worcesterschools.net)

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

