



Fifth Grade News



September/October 2009

Writing

Students are participating in writing workshop. During writing workshop, students are given opportunities to choose what they write. Mini-lessons are taught, and students spend time writing and sharing what they've written.

During writing workshop, students are learning about the writing process and the traits of writing. Through read alouds of selected literature, students have learned that **ideas** are about writing with clarity and detail. During the first trimester, students will continue to review examples of narrative writing and learn how to use imagery in their writing. They will write their own narrative essays and have the opportunity to share their ideas as they write.

Math

Students continue to learn about fractions. The math focus this trimester is on fractions and problem solving. The students use math manipulatives and cooperative groups to better understand the concepts. Students are required to write "Math Reflections" so that they can monitor their thinking and use of strategies in solving math problems. Students are also asked to find real life applications for the math concepts we study. Parents, please help students see the use of fractions in everyday life. Also, continue to practice basic multiplication and division math facts. This helps the children with adding, subtracting and reducing fractions. Our study of fractions will be followed by the study of decimals and percents.

Reading

So far this school year, fifth graders have been working on several different reading strategies. The students have learned that proficient readers form sensory images, ask questions, infer meaning, and determine importance. They do these things as they read to help them better

understand the text. Through read alouds, shared reading, and guided reading groups, students develop these comprehension strategies.

Science

We are in our second year with the new Science curriculum. The concepts are; Earth's Changing Surface, Energy, and Nature's Recyclers. It is very hands on and the students have their own journal in which to record observations, make predictions, ask questions, gather information, experiment, and make conclusions for their many new discoveries. Currently, we are about 2/3 way through our Nature's Recyclers unit. This unit coincides nicely with Outdoor Education, as we look for evidence of decomposition while we are at Camp Algonquin!

Social Science

The first trimester focuses on Revolution as a theme. There are guiding questions to direct our study of the American Revolution and Industrial Revolution. Literature is integrated whenever possible. We will start this unit at the end of September. The students always enjoy learning about our nation's history!

Outdoor Education

WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT OUTDOOR EDUCATION AS USUAL! CAMP ALGONQUIN OFFERS THE STUDENTS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. IT IS A GREAT TIME FOR THE STUDENTS AS WELL AS THE TEACHERS. PLEASE REMEMBER TO GET YOUR OUTDOOR EDUCATION FORMS IN TO YOUR TEACHERS. THE PARENT MEETING DATE IS SEPTEMBER 15 AT 8:20AM IN THE GYM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.

Habits of Mind

We are having the students reflect on their thinking (Metacognition) as they respond to the reasons why and how they measured fractions of a whole. We feel this to be a natural way for the students to really think about the ways they are processing the information needed to solve the problems in math. We will continue to work on other Habits of Mind throughout the year with a student journal.

Other important information...

- The fifth grade program is on Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m. Fifth graders should report to their classrooms at 6:30 p.m.
- Class parties will be planned for October 30th from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

