

Fifth Grade Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Believe it or not, but we are half-way through the school year already. You will now receive a monthly newsletter where you will be updated on what the students are learning at the moment across all subjects, as well as some important dates coming up.

We are also going to continue meeting on Fridays as a grade to work cooperatively with each other. We will work on Relationship Building Skills and Communication Skills while working in small groups.

Below you will find our contact information should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Your Fifth Grade Teachers

CONTACT INFO

You are always welcome to call the school at (718) 831-4016 but it is best to use our emails to contact us:

- Mrs. Apicello kapicello@schools.nyc.gov
- Mr. Barilla jbarilla2@schools.nyc.gov
- Mrs. Cardarelli ccardarelli@schools.nyc.gov
- Mrs. Diasparra idiasparra@schools.nyc.gov
- Ms. Grubert mgrubert@schools.nyc.gov

IMPORTANT DATES

**Please consistently check email & Google Classroom for updates!*

Week of 2/8-2/11	PS 133 Spirit Week!
Thu. 2/11	Family Game Night!
Fri. 2/12	Lunar New Year - NO SCHOOL
Sun. 2/14	Valentine's day
Week of 2/15-2/19	Midwinter recess - NO SCHOOL

Reading Workshop:

Argument And Advocacy

This month in reading we will begin the Argument and Advocacy unit where we research debatable issues. Not only will this unit support our students in reading more complex, challenging non-fiction, it will also support our students becoming more active and critical citizens. Students will research and think critically about a chosen topic.

Writing Workshop:

Research Based Argument Essay

Aligned with the reading unit, our writing unit is the Research-Based Argument Essay. This unit builds on the Literary Essay skills students learned in the previous unit and will use the critical reading of the Argument and Advocacy unit to also support our students becoming more active and critical citizens.

Mathematics:

Decimals/Fractions

Students are finishing up learning various skills and strategies on "Dividing Decimals" in an array of situations (computation and problem solving). Next, we will be working on a KEY AREA for 5th grade standards which will be the "Addition and Subtraction of Fractions with Unlike Denominators." Students will engage in Inquiry based lessons to help bring out deeper understanding behind the math that is really happening behind the scenes.

Science:

Modeling Matter

Students continue to learn about the chemistry of food. In this unit students will be experimenting with food and their transformations. They will explain a variety of things that can happen when two substances are mixed. Students will also learn about atoms and molecules and describe the properties of different mixtures.

Social Studies:

Exploring Western Hemisphere Cultures

5th grade students have just finished their Unit 2 work around the life of explorers. Students have been learning about explorers with a critical eye deciding whether they should consider them "Explorers or Conquerors" by studying the motivations behind their voyages and their interactions with native peoples. We will now be investigating and doing case studies on cultures in the Western Hemisphere (Canada, United States, Mexico, and Dominican Republic). The essential question we will be tackling will be: "How does WHERE you live affect HOW you live?"