

5th Grade Fall Newsletter 2024

Mrs. Markwood - Over the first nine weeks in Reading we have been busy studying the Early Ancient Civilizations! We started with the Maya and have moved into the Aztec. This unit orients students to the geography, climate, flora, and fauna of the Americas. It also presents an overall history and timeline highlighting the rise and fall of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations. In addition, the unit describes innovations and discoveries of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca and features myths from these ancient civilizations. We started a Codex Project where each student got to pick a topic of focus to use for a final writing project. Students chose between Farming, Architecture or Social Class. We just finished part one with the Maya paragraph and will begin taking notes on the Aztec. This quarter we will finish up with the Inca and end with our Codex Project. We also focused on Theme, Setting, Genre, Author's Purpose and Point of View/Perspective, especially through the events & characters of our read aloud novel, "There's A Boy in the Girl's Bathroom". Our next CKLA unit will be Adventures of Don Quixote.

Mrs. Kostiuk- The first grading period has been great, and I have enjoyed getting to know all of the students. We just ended our ecosystems unit where we learned about food chains and webs, symbiotic relationships, and how natural disasters and humans impact the ecosystem. Students participated in a lot of hands-on activities and have begun learning to choose activities/projects to show their understanding of the concepts. Next, we are moving on and studying the solar system. During this unit, students will learn how the solar system includes the sun and all celestial bodies that orbit the sun, and each planet in the solar system has unique characteristics. Furthermore, we will study the cycles and patterns of motion between the Earth and sun and how day, night, and seasons occur. It is important that students check Progress Book weekly for any missing assignments and their grades. I will continue to send out my weekly emails about what is happening in science class, so if you are not currently receiving them, please email me with your email address, and I will add you to the mailing list. Periodically, I will receive a notice that some inboxes are full and won't receive my email, so you might have to check your inbox if that applies to you. Thank you for all that you do!

Mrs. Khan- The first 9 weeks have been a great start to the year! We have been working on words with closed- syllable exceptions, words with different syllable types and being able to identify them. We have also focused on main idea and are now moving on to story elements. I have loved seeing the growth all the students are making in their reading! I am excited to see their growth continue throughout the year! Please email me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Miss Lewellen - It has been a pleasure to get to know all of our students over the course of the first grading period! We have consistently been working on how to approach word problems using the CUBES strategy. After covering all things place value, we just recently wrapped up our unit on adding and subtracting decimals. We are now transitioning into a review of multiplication and, eventually, multiplying decimals. We will wrap up our decimals unit with division and be on our way to starting operations with fractions! I'm looking forward to all that lies ahead and, as always, don't be afraid to email with any questions or concerns you have at any point during the year!

Mr. Bischof - During the first nine weeks in Social Studies we have focused a lot of our attention on things related to maps, the globe and economics. We have looked at the different types of maps (physical, political, population, elevation, etc.) as well as items you can find on a map (compass rose, cardinal directions, scale, etc.). Prior to fair break we also started to look at the hemispheres on a globe that helped with our discussions on longitude and latitude. After fair

break we continued to learn about longitude and latitude, including looking at google maps and the information we can gain from modern technology and maps. We also took a look at timelines and multi-tier timelines. As we move into the second quarter we will focus on economics. We also have a fun activity planned for Veteran's Day. If you have any questions please feel free to email me (caseybischof@gafe.fairfieldunion.org). Thank you!

Mrs. Hockman— In language arts, 5th graders began the year by working on paragraph structure. We have finished unit 1: personal narratives in our new reading curriculum, CKLA. Students then wrote their own personal narrative about fall. We will be moving to unit 3 in CKLA about poetry. Students have worked to improve writing skills using the writing process and working on grammar skill practice. In November, students will be writing poetry and using the R.A.C.E. strategy.

Mrs. Spicer- It's hard to believe we just finished the first 9 weeks! In our Intervention Math class, we have worked on place value, number sense activities, and worked with whole number and decimal place value (money). We will continue to work on number sense, and move on to word problems and how to solve them, multiplication and division, and fraction. We will also be learning how to use the calculator. Please remember that if you have concerns or questions about anything, just send me an e-mail, and I will get back to you no later than the next school day.

Mrs. McCoy - 5th Grade Computer Applications & Literacy finished the first quarter learning about how their Chromebook works including the functions of some of the major hardware components of the device. Students were able to look inside of a real Chromebook and then they built their own paper model! During the second quarter students will learn how to manage their Google Drive, how to send proper emails, and how to use digital tools to conduct research and create a presentation. This project will include learning how to use search engine strategies, how to cite their sources, and how to better use the creative design tools within Google Slides.

Mrs. Phillips - Career Awareness - In 5th grade Career Awareness, students have been focused on learning about employability skills and how character traits relate to different careers. They have been completing assignments that help them understand the importance of these traits in various professions. This quarter, they will begin a new project where they choose a career of interest and explore it in more depth. As the class progresses, students will continue to develop essential skills like working in groups, communication, and time management. I am excited to watch their growth as they build a strong foundation for future success!

Mr. Savage - In band, we have been continuing our work on the first notes. In choir, we are working on blending together while singing with a full sound. Make sure your student is practicing! Also, be sure to mark your calendar for Thursday, December 5th. Our first concert will be that evening.

Mrs. Leitnaker

In 5th grade Health, students have been busy learning about Nutrition, Stress Management and Physical Fitness. This quarter, we will begin the topic of Making Healthy Decisions. Students will be learning about the Six Steps of the Decision Making Process along with being able to analyze and evaluate decision outcomes. Students will also be covering the topics of Character Development, Emotions, Tobacco/Alcohol and Opioid Drug Prevention, Safety, and Conflict Management.

Mr. Sullivan - Current Events

5th Grade Current Events students have done a wonderful job this first quarter! We took a look into primary and secondary sources as well as credible sources. We are currently studying different types of media. We have a wonderful tool that we use called scholastic which hopefully your child can share with you some of the wonderful things we learn about using those. I am looking forward to finishing this first semester strong and starting another class next semester.

Mrs. Miller (Math Lab)

In 5th Grade Math lab the students have been working on their Place Value skills and will soon be moving into exponents and powers of 10. We also spend time every week reviewing skills with multiple sites, including APEX, Zearn, Success Maker, and Prodigy. Let's make the next quarter our best yet!

Clubs

Art Club: Students in Art Club have met several times with Ms. Henderly over the past few months. Individual paintings are in the works with plans to start working with clay on the wheels. Please see Ms. Henderly for more details if you are still interested in joining the Art Club and coming to the workshops. Please see details below for upcoming workshops.

UPCOMING ART CLUB WORKSHOPS

When: 11/13/24, 12/11/24: 5th Grade Art Club

Time: After school until 4:00 PM

Where: Room 203 with Ms. Henderly

Robotics Club

Students in 5th & 6th grade Robotics Club have been learning how to create programs for Evo the Ozobot by drawing codes with markers. They have created paths for Evo to follow and created code so the robot will do special tricks such as a tornado move or a spin move.

When: Wednesdays during the month of March. Permission slips for Spring Session will be available in February. Spots are limited.

Time: after school until 4:15.