



# Fifth Grade Newsletter



## ***News from the Core Classrooms***

### English Language Arts: Mrs. Hockman

Students finished their unit on poetry. They learned about various types of poems, and answered comprehension questions for each poem. Students also spent time creating poetry in this unit. Students created various types of poems. Students practiced comparing and contrasting, and used figurative language. We have just started Unit 5 in CKLA: the Renaissance. In this unit students will be working on paraphrasing information. Students will continue working on writing paragraphs and using the correct format. Students will be writing informational essays about how various artists show the Renaissance spirit through their work and ideas. In these paragraphs, students will be including text evidence in their paragraphs. Students final writing project for this unit will be a biography.

### Math: Mrs. Lewellen

As we wrap up the second quarter, here is an overview of what your students have accomplished and learned in math! During this quarter, we focused on mastering adding and subtracting decimals and began exploring multiplying and dividing decimal operations. We took time to review multiplying whole numbers, which took us into our unit on multiplying decimals. Currently, we are finishing up our unit on dividing whole numbers before transitioning into dividing decimals.

Additionally, some students have started working with fractions, a topic we will continue to explore in the third quarter. Just before our break, students participated in a fun and engaging three-day escape room challenge that encouraged teamwork and problem-solving skills. This activity not only reinforced their mathematical knowledge but also fostered a sense of community in our classroom.

I am excited to carry the great improvement and learning into 2025.

### Reading: Mrs. Markwood

Second Quarter was all about the new read aloud book 100 Cupboards and Unit 4 Adventures of Don Quixote. 100 Cupboards is full of figurative language, high level vocabulary and contains a complex plot. Students love trying to figure out who Henry is and the mysterious cupboards on his bedroom wall. This book is a mystery, fantasy adventure! In Unit 4, students have looked closely at the character traits that our two main characters possess and the similarities and differences between them. We have practiced subject - action verb agreement, suffixes, fact and opinion, text evidence, vocabulary and the writing component of a persuasive essay on whether Don Quixote's good intentions justify his actions. We will continue this into the 3rd quarter. We also mixed in some fun reading passages on Reindeer and the Christmas Pickle! I am super proud of their accomplishments and hard work!

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## Science: Mrs. Kostiuk

The second quarter was the exploration of our solar system. We studied each of the planets, the sun and other stars, and how our solar system functions as a whole. Students were very inquisitive during this unit, and they participated in many activities to better understand the realm outside of our planet. We are coming to the end of this unit and will begin studying forces and motion through hands-on activities. This will be followed by a short study of light and sound. It has been amazing watching the students grow this year. They bless me daily with their smiles, hugs, jokes, and enthusiasm. I will continue to update you weekly in my science news email. If you do not receive this, please email me, and I will add you to the list. If you are on the list but don't receive it, check your inbox because I receive a few mail delivery failure notices weekly due to full inboxes.

## Social Studies: Mr. Bischof

The majority of our second quarter in Social Studies was spent focusing on Native Americans and Early Indian Civilizations. We learned about various tribes, their lifestyles, foods they ate, dwellings they lived in, ways they moved from one location to another, and other interesting facts. We also learned about three different types of governments including monarchies, democracies, and dictatorships.

For the third quarter we are starting with looking at public issues. We are looking at information available, bias, reliable sources, etc. We will then be moving on to the regions of the Western Hemisphere, which will include information about the Northeast, West, Midwest, Southeast and Southwest regions of the United States. Another area we will cover will be looking at the physical environments of the Western Hemisphere and how humans have influenced the food, music, culture, etc. of that area.

## Intervention Reading: Mrs. Culver/Ms. Dalrymple

In the second quarter we did a novel study on the book '*I Survived The Nazi Invasion*'. We focused on different story elements and learned new vocabulary words. The students were engaged and enjoyed doing a novel study. This quarter we will be reading '*Holes*'. Their progress is being monitored weekly with LEXIA (an online program that follows the science of reading) and weekly fluency checks. I love seeing the growth they are having with their reading!

## Just Words Reading: Mrs. Khan

In the second quarter we worked on multisyllabic words with closed syllables. This quarter we will be adding vowel and consonant suffixes to words with multiple syllables. The skills continue to build on one another, so it is important to keep practicing the skills we have learned so far this year. If you are looking for ways to help your child at home improve their reading, the newsletters I email for each unit would be a great resource.

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Math Lab: We have been working very hard on Place Value concepts over the last quarter of the first semester. This quarter we will be spending more time on our multiplication skills starting with multiplying by 10's and moving into 2 and 3 digit multiplication facts. If you need practice with your basic multiplication facts you might consider working through flashcards and timing yourself, this will help you when you have to do more complex problems.

## Resource Room Math: Mrs. Spicer

During the second quarter we focused on adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing decimals and fractions with the state approved calculators. We practiced our new fraction skills before Christmas by enlarging recipes, then making the recipes to practice measuring skills.

In the third quarter we will be moving on to geometry and word problems. For word problems we will break them down using the T.I.P.S. strategy to help solve them.

## Resource Room Reading: Mrs. Culver/Ms. Dalrymple

Hello, hello! This year has zoomed by and it is hard to believe the school year is already halfway through! Students have been working hard and are making great progress academically. We have recently started a unit from the Amplify curriculum on the Vikings from Norse mythology. Students are introduced to the seafaring warriors from Scandinavia known as Vikings. Students will also learn about the culture, beliefs, and everyday life of the Norse people. I am looking forward to what the rest of the year will bring!

## Wilson Reading: Mrs. Khan

In the second quarter we moved on from single syllable words to multisyllabic words with closed syllables! They were so excited to be reading bigger and harder words. We will continue working on this skill for this quarter and eventually build into other syllable types. If you are looking for ways to help your child at home improve their reading, the newsletters I email for each unit would be a great resource.

## ***News from the Encore Classrooms***

### Music: Mr. Savage

The year has been flying by! I am so proud of all of the band and choir students. They had a great holiday concert back in December! Our next concert will be in May, stay tuned for more information.

I welcome all of our new students who will be in General Music this semester. We will be learning how to read music, as well as about different musical styles, cultures, and instruments. Students will not need additional materials for this class.

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## Career: Mrs. Phillips

During the second quarter, students explored the concept of careers and how different interests and skills can align with various jobs. We learned about the importance of setting goals and how education plays a role in achieving them. The class was introduced to basic workplace skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. We also discussed how different careers contribute to society and why it's essential to choose a path that matches our passions and strengths. Additionally, we touched on the idea of lifelong learning, emphasizing that careers can change over time as we grow and develop. Finally, students also completed their very first resume and completed vision boards as they prepare to finish the second half of their 5th grade year.

## Current Events: Mr. Sullivan

Being only a semester class. What can I say? The 1st semester flew by so quickly and it just seemed like yesterday we were at the beginning of the year. I hope that our time in current events inspired you to look at things differently. We looked at so many inspirational stories that hopefully inspired you. I hope to see you all next year when in 6th grade we look a little more into current events and how they do matter even in the eyes of a 6th grader.

## Gym: Mr. Boucher

Welcome to Physical Education. Our focus this year will be learning and developing skills to improve and enhance our overall level of fitness. We will be participating in a variety of sports and activities for health, enjoyment, challenge, self expression and social interaction.

## Health: Mrs. Leitnaker

Welcome to Health Class! I am excited to welcome your child to our Health class this semester! In this course, we will explore three key areas of health, with the ultimate goal of equipping students to make informed decisions that enhance their overall well-being. Throughout the semester, we'll cover a variety of important topics, including Personal Hygiene, Stress Management, Safety, Nutrition, Physical Fitness, and Alcohol and Drug Prevention. I'm looking forward to a wonderful and enriching semester with your child!

## Tech: Mrs. McCoy

In tech this quarter, students focused on formatting in Google Apps. We organized their data and storage in Google drive. We discussed research ethics, plagiarism, copyright and proper citations of sources. Students developed general computer literacy skills by understanding the external and internal parts of devices, learning basic Chromebook operations, and learning shortcuts. Throughout the quarter, we also covered miscellaneous skills such as navigating ProgressBook, submitting assignments, and improving keyboarding proficiency.

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## ***Other News***

### Art Club: Ms. Henderly

Students in the Art Club have met several times with Ms. Henderly during the first semester. They have explored a variety of mediums and will be focusing on the world of clay and wheel throwing over the next few months. Please see Ms. Henderly for more details if you are still interested in joining the Art Club and coming to the workshops. The details are below for the upcoming workshops.

### **UPCOMING ART CLUB WORKSHOPS**

**When:** 2/12/25, 3/12/24 and 4/9/25

**Time:** After school until 4:00 PM

**Where:** Room 203 with Ms. Henderly

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