

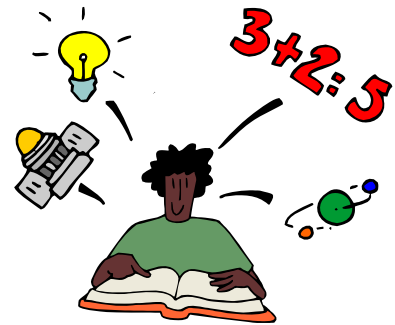
October 2009



Focus On Fifth

Math

In October, we will be wrapping up our study of graphs and data analysis. Our next focus will be on the “Number, Number Sense, and Operations” fifth grade standard. We will begin this unit by reviewing estimation and rounding techniques, as well as reviewing computation skills such as multiplication and division within the context of decimals. ***As we dive into these topics, it is imperative that your child knows his or her multiplication and division facts.*** Please have your child set aside a few minutes each day to study flash cards or review math facts via computer games. You can access Mrs. Stehura’s webpage through the North Canton site at <http://www.northcanton.sparcc.org> to find links to games to review these topics.



Art

Fifth grade art students will be working on improving their drawing skills. We will be working on a still life of pumpkins, using oil pastels.



Reading

September has been a busy month in reading. We have been reading the humorous yet touching chapter book *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli and we have been learning about the key reading strategies—main idea, supporting details, and sequencing. October should prove to be an exciting month as we begin a new classroom chapter book called *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry. A historical fiction book, this deeply moving story centers on a Jewish family’s encounter with Nazi soldiers during World War II. Students love this book!

Students will also be assigned a book to read independently. They will be given a contract for parents to sign and will be given two weeks to read the book. They will then take a quiz on the book in class. Key strategies this month will include cause and effect, comparing/contrasting, and making predictions.



Language

We will be concluding our unit on nouns during the beginning weeks of October. Our next unit in English class will focus on narrative writing. Within this unit, we will discuss the parts of a story and focus on adding excitement through the addition of adjectives, descriptive verbs, and dialogue. We will continue to write informally in journals, as well as reinforce grammar and spelling skills through our Sitton Spelling



Physical Education



Fifth grade opened up the school year by participating in Initiative Activities - activities that encourage and promote teamwork, communication, and cooperation. Included were

“Cooperative Musical Hoops”, “Ascending Order”, and “Mission Impossible”. Students also ran their fall Fitness Run to measure their level of fitness. This run will be repeated in the spring to evaluate fitness improvement. We devoted the rest of September to track and field. Students learned to do a sprint start, pass a relay baton, and throw a shot put and discus. As we move into October, we will culminate the track and field unit with a mini-meet, weather permitting. The remainder of the month will be devoted to Ring Hockey.



Social Studies

The month of October finds us studying Native American customs and cultures. We will learn where Native Americans came from, where they chose to live, and why they established different ways of life. We will also explore and discover how several Native American groups like the Apache and Hopi adapted to different geographical areas. Finally, we will see why in each region of the United States, each Native American group created a unique way of life. We will also begin learning the U.S. states and capitals by region. Thanks parents for your help and support.



Science

During October, students will implement the scientific method as they investigate Models and Designs! This unit provides experiences that develop the concept of a scientific



model and engage students in design and construction. The atmosphere generated by this unit is one of open discussion, free exchange of ideas, and development of ideas into products.

Music Notes

Our focus this month is note names, “Rap of the States”, and adult voices.

