



5th Grade Unit Newsletter

October 2020

Calendar Dates

October 2nd	Innovation Crate Drop-off
October 9th	Innovation Crate Pick-up
October 15th	Student Led Conferences (Not Heather's Class)
October 16th	No School & Afternoon Student Led Conferences
October 20th	Student Led Conferences
October 22nd	Student Led Conferences (Heather's Class only)
October 30th	No School

Notes from the 5th grade teachers!

- When you return your child's innovation crate on October 2, please include their *Green Take-Home* folder so that we can refill it with important information about their next crate's materials.
- If you have any library books or school reading group books from the Spring, please return these in your child's innovation crate as well. We will return them to where they need to go.
- Please help your child find a space that keeps them focused and learning. Unfortunately, laying in bed or on a couch, as comfy as it is, is not beneficial for learning.
- Headphones with a microphone are another great tool to help a child focus. If you feel your child needs help focusing and does not wear headphones, maybe try out this tip.

Student-led Conferences

This year we will be holding student-led conferences virtually. They will be held on the evenings of October 15th and 20th, and the afternoon of October 16th. More information will be coming out soon with how these will work and how to sign up.

Math

We are in our third year of using Bridges Math. The link below is a valuable resource for families. We are using the 2nd edition. There are wonderful apps available in the link as well. Click on grade 5 to get started: <https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/families/bridges2>

Reading Groups

Reading groups have begun! Your child should have a reading book assigned to them and have weekly assignments. Their group will be meeting on a regular schedule which you can view on their individual dashboard. We have been talking a lot as a class on why it is so beneficial for us to have these group conversations. Students are learning so much more about the story through these powerful discussions. Your child's teacher may ask for students to flag their thoughts, questions, connections, etc. using post-it notes, or sometimes the students will be asked to write a My Thinking Entry (MTE) in their notebooks and then post a picture of it in Seesaw. Both of these guide the group's discussion and are an expectation. If your child is not doing one of these, it is hard for their teacher to know if they are fully comprehending the text. Please ask your child what they are reading and encourage them to show you, read to you, and share what is happening in their story.

A Snapshot of Our Learning

Writing: Students are working on foundations of all good writing, the personal narrative. 5th graders are encouraged to add greater detail and figurative language. They should also be writing complete sentences. Students are beginning to write about a small moment that they will forever remember...a heart thumping moment.

Reading: We have been reading the book Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate as a class. Through this book, we are learning about the author's message/theme, figurative language, and how to write about our reading.

Content: 5th graders are finishing up their first content unit learning about Ecosystems. The next unit will be all about the solar system. Materials for this unit will be coming home in our next Innovation Crate.

Math: We are closing in on the end of Unit 1, multiplication strategies and volume, and will be moving on to using money and clocks to help add and subtract fractions. **(Practicing multiplication and division facts will help students with this tremendously.)**

To support our current learning, please have your child:

- Practice telling time using an analog clock.
- Practice their basic multiplication & division facts until they are completely memorized.
- Read at least 20-30 minutes each day.
- Share their writing with you.