



5th Grade Unit Newsletter

October 2018

Calendar Dates

October 4th Field Trip to Baird Creek

October 10th-12th Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya

October 12th Early Release 1:00

October 18th Student Led Conferences

October 19th **No School** & Afternoon Student Led Conferences

October 23rd Student Led Conferences

October 25th Fall Fest 5-8:00

October 26th **No School**

Conferences

This year we will have student led conferences in October again. They will be the evenings of October 18th and October 23rd. They will also be the afternoon of October 19th. Once again, registration will take place online. Here is a link to detailed instructions: <https://goo.gl/imVtP4>. Scheduling will open up to all parents 12:00am, October 7 and remain open to 8:00am, October 19. After that time, you will need to contact Sarah in the office or your child's teacher directly.

Math

Our new math curriculum is called Bridges. The curriculum focuses on developing students' understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve complex problems. Bridges blends direct instruction with hands-on exploration. We present material that is linguistic, visual, and kinesthetic to reach all our students. 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 unless we have special events that may cause their meeting day to switch. 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. 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 at school and encourage them to bring the book home with them to show you, read to you, and share what is happening in their story. Please look at your child's homework log in their take home folder to see what their reading assignments are.

Personal Narratives

Hi! I'm Illyana, and today I'm going to tell you a little bit about Writers' Workshop. This is a class where you get to write about all sorts of different things. From personal narratives to fairy tales, you will get a taste of all kinds of writing. You will also be taught some tips to improve our work. We get ideas from other books that help us to become great writers. Sometimes we have a box of books on our tables. We look for shining examples from these books. Sometimes we review something we have already written to see how we could make it better. Most of the time we just write because our practice helps us to become strong writers. We work hard to get into the writing zone!

Content

All three 5th grade classrooms are immersed in different content themes right now. Heather's class is learning about Ecosystems and currently has mosquito fish and pond snails as "pets". Soon crickets and pill bugs will be joining their classroom riverbed community! Hilarie's class is studying Chemical testing by mixing unknown substances with a variety of chemicals. Students are asked to describe what they see, feel, and smell. Students are eager to keep experimenting! Karen's class is studying the Solar System. They are learning how to research and will create a catalog for the components in the solar system. By the end of the school year, each classroom will participate in each of these units.

Baird Creek

Our unit is looking forward to our first field trip with Charlie Frisk, who will mentor fifth grade students on water quality testing. Charlie will come in to help us understand the interdependent relationships in ecosystems. He will help us understand how involved food webs and food chains can be. On the trip, we will also learn how surrounding influences can make a huge difference in water quality. We'll see the living organisms that are able to thrive in the various settings. Our trip to Baird Creek is always a day of powerful learning. Charlie helps us to have fun along the way. Don't forget to dress for the weather. Bring a sack lunch and a water bottle. Be sure to wear footwear that will allow you to wade in the water. A change of clothes and shoes is also highly recommended because it's not fun being wet and cold. Because of the abundant mosquitoes this year, please prepare with bug spray.

Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya

By Jonah Zienert and Maddison Thompson

Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya is super awesome and it's a lot of fun. The classes include canoeing, rock climbing, outdoor living skills, world games, initiatives and alpha-beta.

There are also activities you can choose during recreation time. These include hockey, fishing, (with a supervisor), canoeing, camp store, gaga pit, talking with friends and the rope bridge. There are fun activities in the evening too. These include a night hike and campfire skits. We might even get to hear the story of Ole Peterson. There is a fun activity called the gizmo which you'll learn about when you get there!

A student helper in our room who went to camp last year said she liked climbing the rock wall because she was good at it. She added that the food is yummy. They had sloppy joes, cereal, french fries, cheeseburgers and chips. They also had delicious s'mores.

Jaxon told us that his brother, Hunter, loved Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya. This is because he got to spend time with his friends, have a sleepover and a have giant recess every day. Jaxon adds, "I think it's going to be a blast."

Band

The 5th grade students have the opportunity to learn how to play a band or orchestra instrument. They receive a 15 minute lesson twice a week with other students who play the same instrument. The students who are participating are enjoying this musical lesson. Look for information in the future for a performance in one of the concerts.