

## FIFTH GRADE NEWS: FEBRUARY 2012

Well, February came in milder than last year! But we still need to be dressing accordingly. Please continue to send winter clothes even if the temperature is above average.

A huge "thank you" to all of you for making our January puppy chow sale a success. We will have one more sale in March. After that time we'll be able to determine if we have enough money raised for our bus to Chicago.

Thank you for all of the Box Tops for Education that you've donated to our class. Keep saving them and bringing them in. We can acquire great things for our school as a result!

The Valentine's Day Party will be on February 14th at 2:00. Our student committees will soon be meeting and planning their parties. A note will be sent home including what each student volunteered to bring. Please ask your student if they are a part of this committee.

Open House is scheduled for February 16th. The students have been working hard in all subjects and are anxious to show off their accomplishments. Please plan on attending that evening between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Academically, we've been working hard. Knowing that ISAT testing begins soon, students have been practicing their math, writing, and reading skills focusing on some testing tips.

In Reading, we are finishing Unit 3 in our textbook. Once that is accomplished, we'll begin our second novel of the schoolyear, Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. This is a story about a girl who has the courage to save her best friend's life. As always, comprehension, predicting, questioning, connecting, visualizing, and using details from the text will be skills we'll focus on as we read.

In Math, our focus will be on decimals, number lines, fractions, and measurement. We'll also be practicing extended response questions for the ISAT test as well as getting a glimpse of algebraic and geometric terms to prepare us for that test.

In Science we have been working with the study of biomes. After biomes will come the laws of motion, energy, and the beginning of our roller coaster research. More information will be sent home as the time approaches.

Social Studies has been enlightening us about the 13 colonies and will eventually lead us to the beginning of the American Revolution. We'll learn how a group of enthusiastic colonists overcame powerful British troops!

In Language, we are finishing up our capitalization and punctuation unit. Our next adventure will be tackling pronouns, adverbs, and prepositions. As always, we continue to write essays in an organized, interesting format we have been taught using a variety of figurative language ideas.

Keep checking your child's planner to see specifically what is happening during each week of school. We are getting better at doing this "automatically". The students are becoming more and more independent. They are becoming responsible students. It's great to see!

Hopefully, spring is right around the corner and winter will wave good-bye! Again, if you have any questions, please contact us.

Mrs. Visel and Mrs. DeZell