

Dear fifth grade families,

December is already here and the end of 2022 is fast approaching. Fifth graders will be busy in these last few weeks of the school year.

In Language Arts, we are beginning our unit on expository writing. Students will be crafting several essays over the next couple of months, some from self-selected topics and others from assigned prompts. They will be practicing research skills, note-taking, outlining, and structuring essays that inform and engage their readers. We continue to work on foundational grammar skills and sentence structures to strengthen students' reading and writing.

In math, we will be wrapping up our second module, which has focused on multi-digit multiplication and division strategies. Students should continue to practice their multiplication facts at home until they have mastery and are able to rapidly recall them; these facts make the more challenging 5th grade math skills much easier for students to learn!

In science, we are continuing our pilot of the TWIG program, focusing on water as a resource and on what we can do to conserve and preserve our water. Students have learned about the limited supply of fresh water on the Earth, researched ways that people have been working to help the hydrosphere, and will be exploring why some parts of our state are more affected by drought than others.

In history, we continue to learn about indigenous nations and peoples before European exploration. Students should be reading their text, *A History of Us: The First Americans*, each night for their homework (in addition to IXL math). It is important that students complete their assigned reading and bring their book to class each day in order to be prepared for discussion, quizzes, and activities based on the reading.

5th graders continue to have a weekly session with Jessica Martin for art and drama/marimba on Friday afternoons. In class, we have learned about the 7 elements of art and are using that knowledge to create artwork in class each week.

Our next field trip is scheduled for **February 21**, to see "*Yes Indeed! Celebrating the Great American Blues Tradition*" at the Luther Burbank Center. A field trip notice will go home when we return from Winter Break, but please check your schedules if you have the option of driving and chaperoning! We have limited seating for the performance and will need 19 seats for student transportation! (No buses were available for that date.) We also have a tentative field trip (pending available drivers and funding) planned for April 3; you should have received an email with more information about that trip and a request for driving commitments in advance!

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a restful Winter Break next week!

Susie Dalton