



Lapham Legend

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Fifth grade has truly gotten off to a beautiful start. We are familiar with our classroom routines and have developed a warm, inviting and content rich learning community. All students seem to be comfortable and are working hard in class and with homework practice! Keep up the fantastic work and MUCH progress is bound to be made this school year!

Math

Fifth grade students need to be practicing their math facts at home. **This week it became clear just how CRITICAL math fact fluency is to fifth grade math success!** We worked on two and three digit multiplication this week and it was a challenge, to say the least. The students need to continue practicing this skill at home as well as at school. Some recommended WEBSITES for math fact practice are: multiplication.com, coolmath.com, and mathfactscafe.com. **I believe that the very BEST WAY to practice math facts is with the old fashioned FLASHCARDS which can be purchased at the Dollar Store, or even made yourself.** A poll was recently taken of high school math teachers as to what is the largest struggle for students who have a hard time in higher math classes; they said it was not knowing their math facts. We DO practice math facts at school, but you MUST practice at home REGULARLY in order to gain automaticity.

MAPS TESTING:

TUESDAY WE WILL BE TAKING OUR FALL MAPS **MATH TEST**; THIS IS A MEASURE OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS THAT HELPS US UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT LEVEL YOUR CHILD IS PERFORMING AT IN THE AREA OF READING, AND WE TRULY PLAN OUR INSTRUCTION AROUND WHAT WE LEARN FROM THESE TESTS. IT IS A VERY HELPFUL TOOL. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DO HIS/HER VERY BEST!

Language Arts:

This week in shared reading we focused on the reading strategy of TEXT FEATURES in nonfiction/expository text. These include reading graphs, charts, captions and much more. When students read informational text it is critical that they think about the text features within the articles/books. Additionally, we began guided reading. We are reading Night of the Twisters, by Ivy Ruckman. Students will be expected to read an assignment, think about it, work on vocabulary and answer related questions.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Smells of the New World Activity: This week we discussed the Columbian Exchange; the trade of goods from the West to the East and vice versa during the time of the Explorers. The students needed to use their sense of smell to identify items that we are familiar with, but which were brand new to the Explorers. Items included: potatoes, tomatoes, blueberries, vanilla, chocolate, beans, marigolds and others. It was great fun!

Important Dates:

- ❖ **Hearing and Vision screenings will take place the week of 19-23rd.**
- ❖ **Half Day Tomorrow 9/15: Dismissal at 11:45. Teachers will be working on School Improvement Goal Evaluation and Goal Setting for this year.**