



Yaniz-Times

Volume 1
Schiesher Elementary School
Mrs. Cathy Yaniz
630-493-8100

September 3rd, 2010

The first 2 weeks of 5th grade have come and gone! We had a fantastic start to what I know will be a phenomenal year! The classroom newsletter will be sent home once a month, with this issue being the first installment. I hope you enjoy reading about what your child is learning in the classroom!

Math

We will use the Envisions Math curriculum again this year. In our first unit we will be covering place value to the billions. Place value is a difficult concept for most elementary students, and we will spend a few weeks discussing and practicing it. Also, now is a good time to begin going over multiplication facts that may have become "rusty" over the summer. Mastery of basic mathematics facts (multiplication and division) is critical in 5th grade, in order to understand the higher level concepts to come. 5 minutes of daily fact practice at home will really help improve your child's speed and accuracy!

Language Arts

Reading, Writing, and Word Study are all part of 5th grade Language Arts. In Reading, we will be working in large and small groups, learning many strategies for better comprehension and fluency. One of my favorite parts of the day is our daily read-aloud time! We are currently reading the story [There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom](#), by Louis Sachar. This is a story about self-discovery, acceptance, friendship and believing in yourself. Ask your child to give you a summary of the story so far! In Writing, we began to focus on strong word choice by writing auto-biographical poems, which I hope to share with you at Open House next week. Word study will include spelling (Words Their Way) as well as specific vocabulary lessons. I happen to be very interested in words and how they can be taken apart and put back together, providing clues to their meanings. The students are already impressing me with their word skills!

Social Studies

Our first unit in Social Studies is Explorers, and we will be studying many of the brave people who discovered "new lands" from the late 1400's to the early 1800's. Our first lesson began with the Portuguese explorers Prince Henry the navigator, Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco de Gama. We began by looking at the map to find Portugal, where these explorers were trying to go (India) and what obstacles might have been in their way. We have many fun activities planned that will bring to life the risks, rewards and consequences of these perilous times!

Science

We started the year by learning that the word schema means all of your experiences that help you understand the world around you. We conducted a fun experiment by using our schema to identify mystery items inside paper bags! We also reviewed the main steps of the Scientific Method. We will be putting these steps into practice as we begin our first unit on Variables, starting with an experiment using pendulums. Students will be recording their questions, hypotheses, experiment trials and results in a science journal.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have questions, comments or concerns. I am always available and happy to discuss your child's progress!

Important Dates:

9/5- Labor Day-No School!

9/7 - Parent Band Meeting 7 p.m.

9/8 - 4th & 5th Grade Open House 7:00

9/8 - Picture Day

9/12 Band Registration

9/16- Early dismissal 11:45 a.m.

9/20 & 22 Vision and Hearing Screening

Happy Birthday to: Olivia Moore, Kevin Paz, Damian

Pacheco-Guerrero, Josh Glavonovits, Kaylee Gansburg