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5th Grade Newsletter

Issue #8

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Fantasy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child should be reading for a minimum of 60 minutes each night. Read to them. Read with them. Listen to them read aloud. Watch them read silently. Immerse yourself in a great fantasy book with your child. Discuss the characters and how they rely on each other to help solve their problems. Ask your child what the main idea is of the passage. How do they know? What details support this thinking?
Writing	Fantasy Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoy fantasy stories with your child at home, noticing the elements of each story. Writers of fantasy are keen observers and researchers who bring an element of realism to their stories. Support your child in this by encouraging them to read lots of nonfiction about animals and the environment. Encourage your child to use transition words in their daily conversation. Ask them to retell their daily events and urge them to use transitions. Help your child to recall their background as narrative writers from our earlier unit this year. Students will draw on all of those narrative writing skills and strategies as they create their own works of fantasy.
Math	Fractions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have your child help you in the kitchen when preparing meals. They can help measure out ingredients using fractional components. They can also practice halving or doubling the recipe. Create an exciting game with fractions that you can play together as a family. Encourage your child to continue to sketch out their thinking when solving complex math situations using multiple fractional models. All students should continue to practice and complete their work on Tenmarks, Compass Learning, or Frontrow and should show all their work in their notebook.
Science	Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be observant and study the communities within our environment, keeping a journal of the things you find. Collect articles about different ecosystems that you may be interested in furthering your research. As we complete our studies, think about you can make a difference in your community and possibly write a letter to your local Congress member sharing your ideas.
Social Studies	Westward Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the newspaper together. Look for other experiences that immigrants coming to this country today face and create a double bubble map to compare/contrast to the Westward Expansion Era. Research and discuss additional resources about Westward Expansion Find videos that show the experiences that people faced during this time. Pretend that you are a person traveling during this time and keep a journal of your experiences.

Focus of the Month – Math Test Preparation

As The Common Core state test in Math approaches, we want to say how very proud we all are of the amazing work your children are doing to get ready! Each and every day they are working hard to prepare themselves for not only the state tests, but for college and career readiness. Please encourage your child to read each math problem with a critical eye, always asking themselves, "What is this problem asking me to do?" As they read the question, they can sketch a picture of the situation to better understand what they need to accomplish. Because they have learned multiple ways to solve complex problems, encourage them to use different ways to solve each problem in order to double check their work with precision. Tenmarks, Frontrow and IXL are fantastic computer programs that will allow your children to practice a variety of problems and help raise their confidence in solving complex math problems. We are certain that together with your help, we will continue to prepare your child to do their very best on the Math state test.