



Fifth Grade Newsletter- January 2018

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Research-based Arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the editorial section of the newspaper with your child, paying close attention to the position of the author and the techniques he/she uses to convey their position. Continue to read and log your minutes on Learn 2 Earn. Students can push their opinions by responding to other students' comments and persuasively arguing their own opinions in the post. Visit: https://www.Whoosreading.org. While reading, investigate both sides of an issue and discuss with your child which side they agree with and why.
Writing	Research-Based Argument Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate both sides of an issue with your child, encouraging him/her to write their position provocatively. Talk with your child about how their writing can be more persuasive. with your child and have them use the discussion to bolster their opinion essay writing.
Math	Geometry and Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate with your child all the different shapes they can find in and around your neighborhood. Have them chart all the attributes they can list for each shape found. Practice finding the volume of different boxes that you may have in the house. Guess how many items might fit in the box in order to fill it up. Continue to encourage your child to use the online math resources and complete work assigned in order to practice all of their strategies they are learning (Tenmarks.com)
Science	Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can reread the texts we are using in class in order to gain a deeper understanding of the ecosystem concept we are learning. Find and view different ecosystems around the world and compare them to the part of the world we live in. Encourage your child to find evidence in the texts they read that they can use to support their hypothesis that they come up with in class discussions. Use www.ecology.com to research a variety of topics involving ecosystems.
Social Studies	Westward Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At home, use www.ducksters.com to search for more information about Westward Expansion. Read the articles about Westward Expansion together and have your child give a summary of the article. Support your child in finding compelling and interesting non-fiction articles about Westward Expansion.

Focus of the Month: Reading

Family Friday, **January 12th**, will focus on reading informational texts in order to form argumentative-based opinions. In other words, students will be closely reading a non-fiction text in order to gather support for their side of an argument with reasons and evidence. This research-based instruction will lead into a student-led debate within the classroom.