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## 5th Grade Newsletter: Issue #6

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Reading Differently to Get Ready to Write About Your Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage your child to read 60 minutes of fiction at his/her level each day, in addition to the reading he/she does at school.</li> <li>Push your child to notice more as he/she reads, by asking questions like what does that make you think, why might the author have written it that way?</li> <li>Encourage your child to jot his/her ideas about their reading onto a post-it so that they might discuss, write about it, or explore it further later.</li> <li>Talk with your child about the personal connections they make between their books and their own lives and experiences.</li> </ul>
Writing	Literary Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read with your child as frequently as possible, and have discussions afterward about the themes and characters in those stories. Talk about how these themes and characters compare to those in other stories they've read.</li> <li>Encourage your child to discuss with you their Book Club books from school. Have them share their ideas about these books, as well as the evidence that supports those ideas.</li> <li>Ask your child to explain to you the components of a well-written literary essay. In addition, ask them what thesis statements they have generated about the books and stories they are reading in class</li> </ul>
Math	Geometry and Volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Practice finding the volume for different boxes that you may have in the house. Guess how many items might fit in the box in order to fill it up.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
Science	Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students can reread the texts we are using in class in order to gain a deeper understanding of the ecosystem concept we are learning.</li> <li>Find and view different ecosystems around the world and compare them to the part of the world we live in.</li> <li>Encourage your child to find evidence in the texts they read that they can use to support their hypothesis that they came up with in class discussions. Use <a href="http://www.ecology.com">www.ecology.com</a> to research a variety of topics involving ecosystems.</li> </ul>
Social Studies	Comparative Case Studies of the Western Hemisphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage your child to research about the culture of Mexico and the United States. Name some cultural aspects that are unique.</li> <li>Visit a travel agent and ask for information on the best historical sites of Mexico or one of the 50 states in the United States to learn more about the history that lies in that part of the Western Hemisphere.</li> <li>Create a PowerPoint with your child on one of the countries in the Western Hemisphere that teaches someone about the history, government, economy, and culture of that country.</li> </ul>

### Focus of the Month: Mathematics

Come visit our classrooms for the next **Family Friday, February 9**. This month, we will be highlighting some of our engaging math practices. You will be able to see how your child works collaboratively with their classmates to complete a rigorous task. Additionally, you will be able to see how your child communicates their math ideas with their partners.

*These practices will help your child develop into a strong and confident mathematician!*