



5th Grade Newsletter: Issue #4

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Tackling Complexity Moving up Levels of Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child orient themselves to a new text by making predictions based on the front and back covers, the table of contents to identify what they are going to learn, and finally begin reading and revise their predictions. • Remind your child to notice text structure (chronological, compare/contrast, cause/effect, problem/solution) while reading and take notes using the correlating Thinking Map • Determine the meaning of unknown words by envisioning what is happening in the text and identifying if the word is being used in a positive or negative way.
Writing	Informational Writing: Feature Articles on Topics of Personal Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child to “teach” you about the topic of personal expertise that they are writing about in class. • Have your child show you the way they’ve chosen to organize information in the article they’re constructing in writing class. • Continue to support your child in building their knowledge base by checking out "how-to" books from the library. • Talk about the ways that information is organized in a newspaper or magazine. • Continue to read chapter books at home with your child, noticing how the purpose and type of writing differs from that of articles that you have read together.
Math	Dividing Decimals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to complete all TenMarks assignments online to help practice and improve your understanding in all the new concepts we are learning. • Use money or coins at home to practice making connections between money, decimals, and fractions. • A helpful website is www.visnos.com to develop concepts about fractions and decimals.
Science	Changes in the Surface of the Earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can research different types of natural disasters using the website www.NationalGeographic.com and search volcanos or earthquakes. • Support your child at home by discussing how natural disasters affect people’s everyday lives as well as how natural disasters change the surface of the Earth. • Try reading non-fiction books and articles about volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis!
Social Studies	European Explorers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can research on the computer about the life and journey of the European Explorers. • Support your child by creating a power point presentation together about the reasons why Europeans explored the Americas. • Try reading non-fiction books about European exploration. You can add these minutes to your reading log and create and respond to questions related to this topic.

Focus of the Month: Technology

Our fifth-grade students are becoming experts in using technology and different online resources in every content area. In Reading, students are using the sites, Whooo’s Reading and ReadTheory, to keep track of their reading and communicate with their peers about different parts of their books they find enjoyable or interesting. Students can post and answer each other’s questions. This has increased their excitement and we have noticed so much more reading happening. Students can close read complex texts and write detailed essays on various topics. In math, students continue to complete online assignments on TenMarks. Some students have found www.KhanAcademy.com a useful site to review grade-specific content. Please encourage and remind your children when using the web, to please be safe and never give out personal information.