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5th Grade Newsletter

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SUBJECT	TOPIC	SUGGESTIONS FOR SUPPORT AT HOME
Reading	Reading Like a Fan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ 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. ♥ Push your child to notice more as he/she reads, by asking questions like <i>what does that make you think, why might the author have written it that way?</i> ♥ 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. ♥ Talk with your child about the personal connections they make between their books and their own lives and experiences.
Writing	Literary Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ 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. ♥ 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. ♥ 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.
Math	Volume, Measurement and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Have your child help you in the kitchen when preparing meals. They can help converting measurements for recipes and measuring different ingredients. ♥ Encourage your child to continue to sketch out their thinking when solving complex math situations. ♥ All students should continue to practice and complete their work on Tenmarks, Compass Learning, IXL or Frontrow.
Science	Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Observe and record different components of the habitats you see around where you live. ♥ Read the newspaper and find evidence of where human activity has been beneficial or harmful to our environment or our animals. ♥ Utilize our Ebooks and other online resources to further study different ecosystems.
Social Studies	Westward Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♥ Read the articles about Westward Expansion together and have your child give a summary of the article. ♥ Research and discuss additional resources about Westward Expansion ♥ Support your child in finding compelling and interesting non-fiction articles about Westward Expansion.

Focus of the Month: Reading

Fifth-grader readers are experts at conducting analysis work within their books. This year's fiction units and book club/center work has well-positioned them for our current "Reading Like a Fan," and Literary Essay units. We now read for story elements, such as character work, setting, and theme, as well as to notice and interpret authors' craft techniques and choices. Students continue their heavy book interpretation work in their clubs, noting, writing about and discussing various aspects of the fiction they are reading. Together, book clubs pull apart sections of text, using that examination to grow new ideas about those texts. Our readers ask questions such as: *Why did the author write it this way? What might have happened if he/she wrote it differently?* This spurs new ideas, which fifth-graders craft into structured literary essays. In this way, our units in reading and writing are well-aligned.