

February 3, 2012

Fifth and Sixth Grade Friday Letter

Homeroom

Dear 5th and 6th Grade Parents,

On Monday, the 5th and 6th grader's have their winter bake sale! Please plan to have your child bake some yummy, healthy goodness for Monday morning. This will be our last bake sale of the year.

ERB results are in! You can pick them up from Rex or me anytime this week. If you have any questions about the results or don't mind if they are sent home in a backpack, please let me know!

Have a wonderful wintery weekend. Thank you!
Wynne and Rex

Just in case you missed it: Experiential Education News!

It's official...the fifth and sixth grade students will be traveling to Bainbridge Island, Washington to Islandwood, a unique 255-acre outdoor learning center designed to provide exceptional learning experiences and inspire lifelong environmental and community stewardship. We will spend Sunday night, April 22 in Denver then fly out on Monday morning, April 23 to Seattle.

We return to Denver on Saturday, April 28 around noon then drive to Telluride shortly thereafter. As a reminder, as you plan your spring break festivities, please be willing to either meet in Denver on Sunday, April 22 or at school that morning for a drive to Denver. We will provide more details in the upcoming weeks such as itinerary, packing list, and communication plans. For now, please mark your calendar for the parent information meeting set for Monday, March 5 at 3:15 p.m. in Wynne's room.

Upcoming dates:

Our T.A.S.P service P.O.L: date pending

5th/6th Bake Sale, Monday, February 6- Please have your child bring in a healthful baked good to sell. Proceeds to benefit the spring experiential education trip. Thanks for your support!

Warm regards,

Wynne and Rex

Wynne Calcutt and Rex Lybrand
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5th/6th Grade History

This week in history class, students:

- Learned about Confucius and Confucianism by taking part in a "jigsaw" reading activity.
- Took notes about Confucianism and how the teaching relates to Buddhism and Taoism.
- Learned and read about Taoism from reading the *Tao of Pooh* and supplemental notes.
- Practiced Chinese calligraphy.

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5th/6th Grade English

In English this week, students:

- Finished their Saint Michael's reflections.
- Chose a beginning to their fantasy story.
- Drafted their fantasy story to get ready for revision work starting next week.
- Completed a spelling quiz on words containing the "ic" suffix.
- Worked on grammar lessons from G.U.M.
- Completed trimester assessments.
- Participated in independent reading.

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5th Grade Mathematics

- Students created addition and subtraction equations from deconstructed stories and solved for the unknown value.
- Students worked basic math facts, including multiplication with decimals.
- Students conducted a reaction time lab, measuring reaction time differences between their left and right hand.
- Students generated statistical landmarks, including mean, range, median, and mode from their data.

- Students created a line plot of all data from the “Grab It” experiment.

Rex Lybrand
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6th Grade Mathematics

- Students completed work reviewing basic math facts such as multiplication and division with decimals.
- Students practiced long division by decoding stories for relevant information and finding the quotient.
- Students plotted points on the coordinate grid, and solved linear equations.
- Students multiplied whole numbers by fractions, and worked on estimating outcomes.

Rex Lybrand
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5th/6th Grade Science

- Students learned of the dangers of *Dihydrogen Monoxide*. This is scary! Make sure they share the dangers with you.
- Students completed a written report: Phase Change of Matter. This report included an excel spreadsheet and graphic analysis of temperature change over time.
- Students used their knowledge of the periodic table to complete a chemistry crossword puzzle.
- Students completed a Paper Chromatography Lab and looked at its applications in forensic science.

Rex Lybrand
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5th/6th Grade Spanish

This week, 5th graders:

- Learned, practiced, and wrote mini-cuento 4.
- Dramatized revisions of stories using mini-cuento 4 vocabulary.
- Played charades to practice this trimester's vocabulary.
- Wrote original stories.

This week, 6th graders:

- Wrote a progressive story using "ellos."
- Listened to, practiced, and wrote mini-cuento 4.
- Listened to and dramatized revisions using mini-cuento 4 vocabulary.
- Read a short story and changed it to "ellos."

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5th/6th Grade Visual Art

This week, the fifth and sixth graders:

- Continued working on their linoleum prints.
- Began working on custom cut linoleum and challenged themselves with detailed compositions.
- Learned how to confidently work the printing press to create professional final prints.

Anne Ahearn
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5th/6th Grade Music

KidSpeak

TMS students offer their view on their RRA experience:

"I like that it is a good bonding experience with your friends."

"I like that you only help us with the stuff that we need you to."

"You let us choose our instruments and our songs and you make it a free place."

"My favorite part is learning how to play the instruments and watching the song come together."

"I like how you allow us to have some space to figure things out on our own so as we get older you're teaching us to be responsible."

When asked where she learned the complicated keyboard part to her song, Kelly replied, *"On my mom's phone, on the Internet."*

Seek Mystery, Not Answers!!

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