

5th Grade

SEPT. 10, 2010

WANLESS
ELEMENTARY

FOCUS
STATEMENT: I AM
ABLE TO
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I READ
AND SHARE MY
OWN THOUGHTS

Rusty, Bryan, and Chris are working hard on an online skeleton system scavenger hunt for health.



We have had a great first two weeks of 5th grade!

We are settling into our routines and we are doing a lot of learning!

With the first two weeks of school already behind us, we have quickly settled into our routines. Your student is hard at work and is already learning new things every day.

At the end of every day, we take a few minutes to fill out planners. This planner is designed to let you know what your child has done throughout the day as well as what your child has for homework. Please take a few minutes each night to review the planner with your child. This will help improve the communication between home and school.

This week we will be administering the DIBELS test to each child in our class. This test

is designed to measure reading fluency and oral reading retell (what they can remember about what they read). Your child should be able to read 104 words per minute. By the end of the week, your child should be able to tell you what their DIBELS score was and whether or not they made their goal.

Also, your child needs to practice their multiplication and division facts at home each night. They should know a large majority of their facts already, and soon they should know all of their multiplication and division facts by memory. Please practice their facts with them every night until they know them! This will help them throughout the year as we begin to tackle tough math concepts.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call, email, or send a note to us.

Wanless Contact Info

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Important Dates to Remember:



Sept. & Oct.

Sept. 16th - Grahams with Grandparents

Sept. 17th - No School - School Improvement Day

October 11th - No School - Columbus Day

October 15th - Doughnuts with Dad

Oct. 28th - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Oct. 29th - Parent/Teacher Conferences

What We Are Learning:

Week of Sept. 6th - 9th

Reading:

This week we are beginning our reading series. Our first story is realistic fiction and it is about two children who experience an earthquake while out camping.

Math:

We are working on Topic 2 which focuses on adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals.

Health:

We began health last week. We began learning about the skeletal system. Students will be given a skeleton to label and learn some of the major bones that make up our skeleton.

Writing:

We will focus on free writing this week, which allows students to write on a topic of their choice.

Science:

We are working on chapter 6 - Rocks and Minerals. Last week we learned about Earth and the other aspects of the solar system.



Math Center Activities: Each day students participate in a math center activity to strengthen the skills that were learned that day.

Focus on Math

This week we are working on topic 2, which deals with the adding and subtracting of whole numbers and decimals. Each day, our math consists of four separate parts daily. Calendar Math is a piece that is done to enhance patterns, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills, decimals, predictions, and working with money. We also do an activity that reviews multiplication and division facts. This time should be used as a time for students to review and strengthen their fact skills. **IT IS NOT DESIGNED TO TEACH FACTS DURING THIS TIME!** Students should be practicing their facts on a nightly basis to learn their facts. The majority of our math time is spent on a topic focus, such as adding and subtracting large numbers. During this time, students are given a problem and it is worked through, discussed, and the lesson of the day is taught. It is during this time that they watch a video on the concept that is taught that day. At the end of the lesson, students also play a math center activity to strengthen what they have learned. Your child should be able to explain to you what the focus of the lesson was for that day when you ask them in the evening. Also, the homework will directly relate to that daily math focus.

Focus on Language Arts

This week we are beginning our 5th grade reading series. This series has six different themes, and the first theme contains stories about natural disasters. The story for this week is Earthquake Terror. This story is a realistic fiction story where two children are out camping with their parents when an earthquake strikes. The young boy in the story helps to protect his younger sister during their adventure.

This week's reading strategy is making inferences and predictions. Students should be able to predict and make inferences about what the story will be about and happen based on what they have read so far. Be sure to ask your child about their predictions that they made during reading.

We will also begin spelling this week. The 25 words that we have for the week all have short vowel sounds. The words for this week are: 1. bunk 2. staff 3. dock 4. slept 5. mist 6. bunch 7. swift 8. stuck 9. breath 10. tough 11. fond 12. crush 13. grasp 14. dwell 15. fund 16. ditch 17. split 18. swept 19. deaf 20. rough 21. trunk 22. skill 23. track 24. fresh 25. odd

We will also be focusing on free writing this week. Free writing allows the students to write about whatever topic they choose.

Did you know?

~ The human adult skeleton has 206 bones?

~ You are born with over 300 bones and some of them fuse together?

~ Babies are born with knee caps, you don't develop them until you are 5?

