

# Fifth Grade News

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Dear Parents,

We are very excited about all the great things happening at Caughman! We have chosen to share a few things going on in fifth grade through this newsletter. Please take a few moments to review what we will be working on with our students over the next couple of weeks.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns; feel free to contact us at 803-783-5534 or via teacher's email.

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## English Language Arts

In ELA we are taking a closer look at types of writing to include Expository, Argumentative and Opinion style writing. Students are now focusing on reading various samples of writing and researching to write and publish their pieces.. Students are encouraged to read each night and discuss with their parents about what they are reading. As a reminder students are asked to respond to their reading nightly using a weekly Reading Log.

## Comprehension Reading Strategies: School to Home

- Read, read, read! Read to your children every day. Make it part of your bedtime routine, an after-dinner activity, or a fun way to spend time together on the couch.
  - Set a good example by letting your children see you read. Show them that reading is a good choice for leisure activity and sure beats watching TV. Talk about the book you're reading. Listening to you summarize your book teaches your
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## Upcoming Events

### January 2020

February 23- January 2: Winter Break

January 14: Make up Picture Day

January 17: No School for Students

January 20: MLK Holiday

January 22: Celebration of Learning

January 23: Report Cards Issued

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children how to take what they've read, absorb it and condense it. • Use pre-reading comprehension techniques. Before reading a book, have your child look at the cover and the inside pictures and predict what the story is about

- Read books together and discuss. Read to your children every evening. At the end of each chapter, discuss what happened. Parents can still share books with older children by reading the same book separately. Ask your child every day, "Where are you in the book? Did you get to Chapter 5 yet? What do you think about what happened to Harry?" Allowing children to retell a story that they read helps them practice and build comprehension skills.

## Mathematics

With the school year underway, fifth grade students are currently learning about Fractions. In the weeks ahead, they will be learning about Geometry. There are many exciting events ahead for you and your child. And then, there are some events you might not be looking forward to — like deciphering your child's math homework! As new concepts and strategies are being taught, it may feel like you have no idea how to help your child. While I love math and teaching it, math homework can still be tricky.

These five websites below are my go-to for resources, worksheets, and games.

- 1. Learn Zillion:** This video-based website teaches math concepts in short, student-centered lessons. You can search a concept and watch different videos that will teach you and your child how to understand math ideas and strategies. The videos are very child friendly! Recommended for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up.
- 2. Khan Academy:** Khan Academy focuses on interactive videos and practice exercises that support your child's learning at her own pace. The activities are simple enough for your child to do on her own but also challenging enough to push them to learn more. Recommended for Kindergarten and up.
- 3. K 5 Learning:** K 5 Learning is a wonderful parent-support for math help at home. It offers online support and numerous printable worksheets to support you and your child's learning at home. There are even parent progress reports if you chose to assess your child's progress. Recommended for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Keep these resources on hand when math homework starts to get tricky. They can be a great support to both you and your child!

## **Social Studies**

In Social Studies our fifth graders will be working on the Roaring Twenty's. We will be exploring American economic challenges in the 1920s and 1930s and world conflict in the 1940s.

## **Science**

In Science, students are working on Mixtures and Solutions. Students will soon start their unit on Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems. It is important that students follow all safety rules during this process. If students are not following the rules they will not be able to participate.