

• Oakridge Elementary
• School

• ISD 196

• Rosemount, Apple
• Valley, Eagan

• 651-683-6970

Fifth Grade News

September/October 2009

Steppin' Up To The Challenge!

• Our 5th graders are off to a great start! They have been learning the new expectations of their classrooms and adjusting to the effort that it takes to keep track of patrolling, band lessons, and other responsibilities that students take on at this age.

• We have begun the school year teaching the importance of CARES in our classrooms. Students reflect on which area is a strength for them and also where they need to set goals. Time management and responsibility are crucial skills that our 5th graders will need as they get older. We help them acquire these skills by encouraging goal setting, as well as requiring the use of the Assignment Notebook, a valuable communication and organization tool.

• The support our students receive at home will ensure that they stay on top of the many challenges they face this year, as well as meet their individual goals. With your help, our 5th graders will have a successful year and be prepared for middle school and the challenges that lie ahead!

Language Arts

• Fifth graders have been busy choosing "just right" books. They are reading independently each day at school and have set an individual reading goal.

• They are learning skills and strategies in writer's workshop that they will be using to write a Literary Essay about one of the books they are reading. Our work in "word study" will enhance our reading and writing skills by providing practice in the areas of spelling, language, vocabulary, and using a dictionary and thesaurus.

Cooperation
Assertion
Responsibility
Empathy
Self-control

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept. 22 PTO Mtg. 7pm
Sept. 24 Camp St. Croix Parent Mtg. 7pm
Sept. 28 Innisbrook Orders Due
Oct. 2 PTO Safety Fair 6:30-8:30 pm
Oct. 8 ELL Parent Night 6pm
Oct. 9 All Camp forms and money due
Oct. 12 PTO Mtg. 7pm
Oct. 13 Picture Retake Day
Oct. 15 & 16 MEA -No School
Oct. 19 Camp St. Croix Volunteer Mtg. 7pm
Oct. 20 Title I Parent Night 6:30pm
Oct. 22 Fall Parties 1:45-3:00
Oct. 23 Staff Development -No School
Oct. 26 Innisbrook Pick-up 4-7pm
Oct. 28 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-8pm
Oct. 29 Parent/Teacher Conferences 8-8pm
-No School
Oct. 30 No School

MAP TESTING DATES:

Graham Sept 24 & Oct 7
Nordstrom Sept 22 & Oct 8
Siekmeier Sept 23 & Oct 6
Wylie Sept 21 & Oct 2

What We're Working On...



From the Science Lab...

5th graders begin the year in science by studying how altering variables can change the outcome of a controlled experiment. They investigate by using a hands-on approach; creating pendulums, lifeboats, flippers, and airplanes to help them in their explorations.

For at-home extension activities, visit: <http://www.fossweb.com/modules3-6/Variables/index.html>

INVESTIGATING THE PAST...

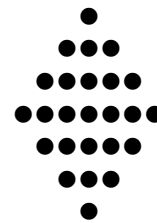
In social studies, students are beginning to learn about ancient history. They are learning about the jobs of archeologists, historians, and geographers, and becoming detectives of the past, themselves. Students study a variety of materials, including a collection of cave art and artifacts, and form their own hypotheses as to what clues these items give us about early humans.



What's Your Strategy?

Currently, in math, students are sharing their thinking and demonstrating the skills and strategies they use to solve problems. We have taken our Math MAP tests, and will be starting Geometry soon.

Challenge: How do you see this number? What do you do to find the total?



Succeeding With Homework!

Now that school has been in session for a couple of weeks, it is important to establish an effective homework plan with your child. It is crucial to establish a routine that can be followed daily. This homework time can include assignments from school, listening to your child read out loud, and also discussing the day's events with your child.

Please have your child show you their assignment notebook each night. Homework assignments, special events, and sometimes a topic for you and your child to discuss will be written in this notebook. It also serves as a great communication tool, as the teachers check the assignment notebook each morning.

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