



Dear Parent/ Guardians,

Spring is finally here. April is the month of new growth. Our students are looking forward to succeeding and surpassing previous levels on the New York State English Language Arts exam. Be mindful that the exam is just one of many things happening in Reading and Writing for 5th graders. The work and exploration continues right through June.

Please continue to work with your child at home, and make sure they are completing their homework on a daily basis. The math exam will take place May 1st and 2nd. Please continue to work with your child at home by accessing the various websites that we use in class to better prepare your child for this exam. As always, we are available every Tuesday from 2:40-3:20. Please be reminded that Spring Break begins on Friday, April 19th. The children will return on Monday, April 29th.

READING	<p>Readers will begin studying fantasy. Students will study the elements that make up fantasy using the mentor text, “The Thief of Always” by Clive Barker. Students will engage in a student-led read aloud, work in groups to strengthen vocabulary and continue to build reading stamina. Students will be able to distinguish and explain the difference between fantasy and other genres.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME: Have your child read daily to you. Ask them about the theme and to summarize what they are reading. Please try to ensure that your child is reading 45-60 minutes a day. The 5th grade expectation are that students are reading 60 minutes a day.</p>
WRITING	<p>Students will be creating their own fantasy stories; they will learn about elements of fantasies stories. In addition, we will watch some “fixed fairy tales.” These videos will give students ideas to help create their own story. At the end of this unit the students will publish their own story in a real book! This book will be available for purchase. Please look out for letters on how to purchase these books.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME: Read fantasy stories with your child and watch some fixed fairy tales on your own. Talk to them about ideas that they can write about. Encourage communication to find out what they are doing in writing class.</p>
MATHEMATICS	<p>Mathematicians will work on geometry, volume, conversions between units of measurement, graphing, and organization of data. We will continue to improve our problem-solving skills: Decipher, Draw, Plan, Solve, & Check.</p> <p>5th graders have been preparing for the NY State Mathematics exam all year - spiraling homework, problem-solving tasks, and work towards mastery of skills.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME: Have your child practice DAILY for 10-20 minutes on either site: Zearn.org; KhanAcademy.org; FirstinMath.com; OR XtraMath.org.</p>

SOCIAL STUDIES	<p>We will begin working on our next unit on Explorers and conquistadors. Students will study various leaders that helped shape, create and establish communities in the Western Hemisphere</p> <p>ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME: Research various explorers and conquistadors. Focus on those Europeans that explored and settled in Canada and Latin America. Watch documentaries and videos that focus on these historical figures and visit the local library to obtain books on these men.</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Students are introduced to a new problem—creating a new salad dressing with a flavor, texture, and appearance that appeals to consumers. They begin by figuring out how to make a salad dressing without sediments. As they do, they are challenged to use their understanding of the particulate nature of matter and of the properties of molecules to explain why some solids dissolve, and others do not. Activities to do at home: During meals, ask your child to describe the flavor, texture and appearance of the food that they are eating.</p>