

Hello Families!

Considering this is the first newsletter, it is LONG, but please take the time to read it all.

IMPORTANT

- Monday, 8/21 and Tuesday, 8/22- Volleyball Tryouts 3:30-4:30

*Must have permission slip signed

- Friday, 8/25 - Boy Scouts Lunch Discussion (for interested boys)
- Monday, 8/28 - Fundraiser Forms & Money Due
- Tuesday, 8/29 - PTA Meeting 6:30pm
- Tuesday, 8/29 - Boy Scout Registration

FEES & FORMS

If you have any fees or forms that have not been submitted, please send them in as soon as possible. If you need more time before you are able to pay the fees, please just let us know so we don't keep asking your child for it.

RDS

Your child received RDS login information this week. Some received TWO papers. They are so that your child has his/her own login information to see grades, and the other is for parents to see grade information for all of their children. We do not have any grades entered just yet, so there will not be much to see. However, please go ahead and sign on to make sure it all works. I do NOT have your login information, nor can I reset anything. You will have to go through the [EVSC Parent Access](#) section to ask questions and request help.

LUNCH MONEY

As a 5th grader, your child has the option to buy additional snacks at lunch. You have two options for them to pay: cash or their school account. In order to pay using their account, a parent MUST send in a written note saying that their child is allowed to use their account. Otherwise, they will NOT be allowed to.

[EZSchoolPay](#) - This site will allow you to check your child's account balance, check their purchase history, and add money to your child's lunch account online using a credit card. You will need to enter the school's ZIP code (47712), your child's 7-digit Student ID Number, and their last name. Your child knows their 7-digit ID number...it is their password for their school computer! Remember that this is optional, and you may always send a check or cash to school

with your child instead. (Just please remember to write your child's PIN number on any checks that are sent for lunch money!)

PTA

If you have not already joined PTA, PLEASE consider it! Forms were available at Open House and were sent home last week. I still have extras if you would like another copy. PTA does so much for our students, teachers, staff, and building, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

WEBSITES

Plan to visit our class website, www.NanceNinjas.com (also www.NanceNinjas.weebly.com) regularly. I keep it updated with important dates & events, helpful links for parents, pictures, and details about what our classes are working on in math, science, and social studies classes. Mrs. Schefer also keeps a website: www.wtshockwave.weebly.com . It will have more detailed information about reading and language arts classes. Please note that we do not necessarily update them daily, and we do not have specific homework assignments posted (since they will rarely have assigned homework). We typically update them weekly and at the start of each unit.

My site has also been updated with some pictures from the first week of school (at the top, go to More > Pictures).

MATH

In Math, the focus of our current unit is multiplying multi-digit numbers. By the end of this section, students will be expected to:

- Multiply a one-digit number by up to a four-digit number (6 x 8735)
- Multiply a two-digit number by a three digit number (34 x 96)
- Multiply any number by a multiple of 10 or 100 (5 x 300 or 40 x 60)
- Evaluate (“solve”) equations involving parentheses or brackets using the properties of multiplication. (Zero, Identity, Associative, Commutative, Distributive)
- Solve word problems involving multiplication using these skills and strategies

Students can use the textbook and workbook for extra practice at home. Most of the multiplication properties can be found in section 3-1. Distributive property can be found in section 3-5. Multiplication using the standard algorithm can be found in sections 3-7 and 3-8.

Students are allowed to use a variety of strategies to solve these problems. These skills are the foundation of fifth grade math. It is critical that students know the basic multiplication facts through the 12s. Division is the next unit, which will use these same skills.

The students will have the assessment for this section on Friday, August 25.

SCIENCE

In Science, we spent the first few days discussing observations and inferences, which are important when communicating scientific information. We then spent some time discussing the solar eclipse that will take place Monday afternoon.

Starting Tuesday, we will move on to the rest of our Earth Science unit, starting with the earth's rotation and day/night, then covering shadows and movement of the sun across the sky, seasons, stars & constellations, and planets later in the grading period.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, we are currently covering Map Skills. Students need to be able to identify and use lines of latitude and longitude, use a compass rose and cardinal directions, and identify physical & cultural regions on US (such as Midwest, Northeast, etc.), some states, major cities, landmarks, rivers, lakes, the continental divide, and mountain ranges using a map. More than anything, they will need to be able to DESCRIBE the physical and cultural regions of the US, as well as DESCRIBE the impact of access to sources of fresh water on local and regional communities.

READING

So far, students are “digging” into great books and getting into the routine of not just reading, but also discussing, analyzing, and thinking deeply about the text they are reading.

- One thing you can do at home is ask about strategies they are learning or texts they are reading in class.
- Tests will include a text they haven't read before, and they will need to apply the skills and strategies we are learning in order to answer questions (both mc and written response).
- Next week, we will send home some of their work so that you can see what type of text we use, and how you can support their effort at home.

- In the future, most of our tests and other work happens on line, so you won't see tons of papers coming home throughout the year.
- Binders come home occasionally for you to review with your child! Your student will present to you what they are learning and explain where they need to grow and where they have strengths!

Students will be tested at the end of the unit (September 1st) on the following standards:

- Determine theme of a story*
- Quote accurately when referring to what a text says explicitly*
- Select and apply context clues and text features to determine the meaning of unknown words*
- Use specific details to describe two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or play*
- Determine how words and phrases provide meaning to works of literature, including imagery, symbolism, and figurative language (e.g., similes, metaphors, hyperbole, or allusion).*

WRITING

Our first unit in writing is all about narratives (both fictional and personal), and writing effectively to describe the plot. The following standards will be used to assess their writing:

- Develop the exposition*
- Develop an event sequence that unfolds naturally with transitions*
- Provide an ending that follows the narrated experiences or events*
- Use descriptions to develop experiences or events / shows the reaction of characters to situations*
- Apply correct use of capitalization in writing*
- Apply correct spelling patterns in writing*

***They will also have a short quiz on apostrophes and quotation marks this unit.*

NOTES FROM MRS. SCHEFER

General Info:

We are starting to work on Thinkpads. Students are not allowed to try to finish work early so they can play games. We are working with them to slow down and do their best work before they turn it in.

Seating:

Students who do not follow class rules will not be able to use our flex seating options. Safety always comes first, and if they aren't taking care of furniture, or using furniture in an unsafe way, they may not be eligible for flex usage.

Site:

Wtshockwave.weebly.com has info about grading, reading and writing standards, photos of students, and links to important sites!

Questions:

Any questions, please email any time!