

Good afternoon, families!

*We have almost completed a list of important dates for the 5th grade end-of-year events. We are still waiting on a few to be confirmed before we send it out to parents. This will be sent out both electronically and on paper. We are hoping to have it out early next week.

*The Valentine's party will be Friday, February 13th from 2-2:30pm. The students are welcome to bring in Valentine's for their classmates. They do not have to put names on each Valentine, but I attached a class list to this email in case they wanted to. We have 28 students at this time. (*See Below for List)

*Today is the last regular season basketball game at Scott Elementary for both the Boys (4pm) and Girls (5pm) teams. The Battle of the West Side games are next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at Perry Heights. The WT Boys play first on Monday at 5:30 (vs Daniel Wertz). The WT Girls play at 7pm vs Tekoppel.

*All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are attending the Philharmonic concert in March. The cost will be \$2. Please send this in at your earliest convenience.

*Today the students watched a Tales & Scales performance that was a story based on The Ugly Duckling.

*Our class just opened up a new Scholastic order. It will stay open until Tuesday. The students received two different order forms to choose from. If you are sending in the order to school, please make sure to pay by check. We cannot send cash. As usual, you can order and pay through the Scholastic website if it's easier for you.

If it's your first time ordering online, the website is www.scholastic.com/readingclub. The students received a class Activation Code that you will need: GM6MQ. You will only need to enter that code the first time you order online.)

*In Math, the students have been working in this week on Expressions and Equations. Today was the first day we worked on solving expressions using the order of operations, and we will do the same tomorrow. I expect the test to be next Friday, February 6. Next week we will start having a 10-20 minute review at the beginning of each class in order to better prepare for ISTEP at the beginning of March. This will cover everything we have already completed in class this year AND 4th grade standards for the topics we have not yet covered (such as polygons, lines, angles, mean/median/mode/range, graphs, etc).

*In Science, the students have had two projects going simultaneously. The first is what we have been calling their bone projects. Each student was asked to come up with a way to help them (and others) learn the names of the bones in the body. They were given freedom on this to find a way that works for them. So far it has been games for the class to play, songs, flashcards, posters, etc. In general, the project is very open, and the goal is that they study and learn the names of the bones. They were given 2 copies of a skeleton diagram with all of them that they are expected to know.

The second project is the owl pellets. Almost all of the groups have already separated out all of the bones and cleaned them up. Some of the groups have already started the final stage: gluing the skeleton back together. We will finish this by Friday. They will be displayed at school for awhile before being sent home.

*In Social Studies, we have been covering the 13 Colonies. We have been moving through the information quickly in order to get to the American Revolution in time for ISTEP. By the end of this unit, they need to know the big ideas, such as: Who settled in each set of colonies (New England, Middle, and Southern) first, and why did they move there? What were some of the conflicts at this time- who was involved, and what were they over?

*The class has started discussing their plans for the talent show in May. We will have very, very little time to work on this in class until after ISTEP in May. At that point, it's too late to start planning! This year, the show will be in 4 segments of approximately 15 minutes each- one for each homeroom. I have asked them to start discussing ideas amongst themselves, and some have already started putting an act together. They are not expected to start full rehearsals and making costumes yet- I just want ideas, and I want them talking out ideas so that we can be prepared. They will just let me know when they feel like they have an act together. As always, please make sure that the music and costumes are appropriate for school and for every age group attending the shows- from toddlers to grandparents. We will have more details coming out later as the planning continues.

Class List:

Grace	Leslie	Gavin
Zeke	Shae	Olivia
Mason	Jade	Rachel
William	Alyssa	Jonathan
Savanna	Connor	Sam V
Abby	Swathi	Charlotte
Luke G	Dominic	Landen W
Paige	Trey	Jordan
Luke H	Rainer	Sam W
		Landon Y