

Welcome back, everyone!

First, we have welcomed Mrs. Amanda Southworth to our 5th grade team! Also, Mrs. White will return to WT tomorrow! Mr. White will still be helping her adjust, and he will continue helping in a variety of ways for the rest of the school year.

*Tomorrow is the DARE gradation for all students that completed the DARE essay requirements. Congratulations to the four students that were chosen to read their essays at the graduation: Gavin (Nance), Max (Hall), Madi (Smigel), and Mia (Southworth). The graduation is set for 9am in the cafeteria. The event is very short- Officer Spradlin speaks, the chosen students read their essays, each student's name is called to receive his/her certificate, the end!- but parents are welcome to attend if they want to. The students will receive their tshirt in the morning. They may wear anything on bottom they choose (jeans, sweatpants, leggings...). Since it will be so cold, they may also want to wear long sleeves to keep on underneath the shirt.

*The students received two papers on Monday that BOTH need to be signed and returned. The first was about instrumental at PH, and the second was about the Truth Talks program being offered later this month. Over half of my students returned them today- THANK YOU! If you need a few days to talk over the content of these papers with your child, please try to still have it returned by Friday. If you have questions, please just email me.

In Math, the students just started a unit on Adding and Subtracting fractions and mixed numbers WITH regrouping. They already completed the notes today in their notebooks with examples. I will update the website later this week. Most of the skills in this unit are from 4th grade and/or from our previous fraction unit from November and December (including converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, common denominators, and simplifying).

In Science, we started discussing the new unit for this grading period: Human Body. More specifically, it will focus on the musculoskeletal system (bones, muscles, joints, and coordination). This unit has a lot of hands-on activities that involve both gross motor skills and fine motor skills, and will include hand-eye coordination and reflexes. It is certainly one of the more interesting ones we get to have! The students will also work with partners to dissect an owl pellet and reconstruct the skeleton of the rodent. This will be in the next 2 weeks, after they have started learning the names of the bones in the body. They will also be able to complete a virtual knee replacement surgery once they have learned about joints. This is done on a website made especially for kids that are learning about the musculoskeletal system. It is an interactive animation that walks them through the major steps of a surgery. I will post the website for them to access from home for those that want to complete more activities than what we have time for in class.

Nance HR Only:

In Social Studies, we just started Ch 4: the New England Colonies. This chapter, together with 5 & 6, will cover the 13 original colonies. Even though we will discuss the people and vocabulary, I would rather focus on the main ideas: what were the characteristics of each set of colonies (New England, Middle,

and Southern)? Who moved there, and why? (Pilgrims, Puritans, English/German/French/etc., religious reasons, business opportunities, a new start, farming opportunities, etc.) As a whole unit, the 13 colonies will last several weeks.