

Good morning, families!

I hope you enjoyed your extra days off with the kids (again) last week! There's LOTS to catch up on in this email, so please take a few minutes to read through this when you have time.

We are anxious to get the **5th grade end-of-year calendar** out, and it will be out as soon as we know the EVSC's decision about the make-up days. It is my understanding that the Board will officially decide on Monday (3/16). We have not sent it out because the dates for important events, such as the 5th Grade Recognition ("graduation") Day, will depend on that decision. For example, that event is always the second-to-last day of school, and we coordinate with Perry Heights so that we do not have ours the same time as the 8th grade graduation. Thank you for being so patient- we know some of you have to request time off for certain events and need as much advance notice as possible.

Report Cards will be sent home next Wednesday, March 18th.

Today was the LAST day for **ISTEP** testing for students that were present each day! ISTEP make-up tests will continue to take place Thursday and Friday this week. All tests need to be completed by Friday. The computer-based multiple-choice sessions will occur in late April and early May.

We typically celebrate **Pi Day** in my math classes each year on March 14th ("pi" \approx 3.14). It is on a Saturday this year, so I planned on celebrating on Friday, 3/13. The students do activities related to Pi, such as calculating circumference based on the diameter using common items around the classroom & school. With the snow days, I completely forgot about it until yesterday. I would love to still have it. If there is anyone that can donate a pie for this Friday, it would be greatly appreciated. We take ANY flavors! I have 28 students in one class and 29 in another. Please email me back by Thursday afternoon if you are willing to send one in so that I know how many I still need to buy.

I had a casual discussion with the kids yesterday about the **Invention Convention**. It was not officially assigned yet, but they had a chance to get some questions out and start thinking about ideas. There is no due date set yet, and the packet with guidelines has not been given to students. Just a reminder: The students will need to actually bring in the invention or a model of it. This is NOT expected to be an expensive project. Household materials can be used to represent the parts of the invention. Depending on the invention, it may not be a working model, but may instead be a model to help the students describe to the class what it is used for. They will have two options for the presentation and other requirements: (1) create a tri-fold display board, or (2) create a Weebly website. I will be able to help them get the website started if they choose that option. Most of the students in my homeroom already have a bit of experience with it.

As some of you heard in the last automated call home from WT, Friday is also the **Dr. Seuss celebration**, which was postponed due to weather. Although the breakfast is only for K and 1st, students at every grade level are allowed to dress up as their favorite book character (Dr. Seuss or not). Students may also consider it a "twin day" and dress up the same as a friend. They do not have to be in the same class to be "twins" for the day.

In **Math**, we are going to be trying to catch up from all the snow days. We have a few days to finish covering Area (of parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids) and Volume (of rectangular prisms). We will then move on to Data Analysis, which covers graphs (bar graph, line graph, line plot, frequency charts, pie charts) and mean/median/mode/range. Thankfully we have already

worked on some of these topics this year so we have less to cover. The last major topic of the year will be coordinate grids, which include plotting points (positive numbers, only), and using an equation and a table to find ordered pairs to plot.

In **Science**, we are finishing up the unit on musculoskeletal system. We still have a few activities left to do early next week before beginning the last unit.

The last science unit will be Environments. I really enjoy this topic because it lets us go outside for several of the lessons and activities. They will have a project later in the grading period that uses a shoe box. If someone in your family buys shoes in the coming weeks (and the box is big enough for a diorama), please save it for that project! I will have a few extra, but not enough for all 55 students.

In **Social Studies**, we will continue working on topics related to the American Revolution for most of the rest of this year. So far we have only been able to fit in the first few topics, such as the Boston Tea Party, the Stamp Act, and the Tolerable Acts. It will not be as prevalent in our day until after the next round of ISTEP.

Finally- If any of you are looking for a **tutor** for this summer, Mrs. Allen is taking students again this year. If you are interested, you can email her at janette.allen@evsc.k12.in.us or call her at 812-459-9219.

Mrs. Simone Elmi Nance, M. Ed.

West Terrace Elementary School
5th Grade Team

...I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future...