

First- different sections of this were written by different 5th grade teachers, so it may sound a bit different than usual!

Greetings! The first quarter is coming to an end. Students are working diligently to finish research reports about recycling and the garbage crisis through reliable sources. They may bring homework this week to practice reading, writing, grammar or vocab.

BOOK FAIR: TOMORROW (Tuesday)!!

DARE FIELD TRIP: Wednesday, October 19th. No chaperones needed.

Biography Wax Museum:  
TBD (November / December)

#### READING TESTS:

The unit tests for Reading and Writing are Wednesday and Thursday. They will apply the skills and strategies we have learned throughout the unit to new text. They have practiced and applied strategies daily in class and have taken two quizzes. As a class, we look at the results from the quizzes and discuss why our thinking was correct or incorrect. They also have multiple chances to clarify their thinking after quizzes in small group. Everyone should be ready.

Quizzes and tests are primarily on technology apps for a few reasons. First, we can instantly look at graphs and tables of the results and analyze our personal and class data. Second, we save a HUGE amount of paper, and if you ask your kids why that is a big deal - they might give you a number of reasons based on their current research.

#### TECHNOLOGY:

Speaking of technology, students have done a great job, overall, of being responsible on their computers. That being said, quite a few students believe their Thinkpad is a toy, not a tool. We give very specific assignments for student technology use. We have also spent time discussing digital citizenship, and creating class expectations. If students are on inappropriate sites or "Googling" inappropriate material, we will get notification from downtown within 24 hours, and students will be addressed personally. If they are not completing assignments because they are "playing games" on their computers, we will meet with them and discuss concerns. Thinkpads might be limited for students who are not using this learning tool responsibly.

#### READING/WRITING

Unit 3: Fictional Reading / Narrative Writing Targets

Determine theme of a poem or story by inferring

Analyze to understand how figurative language helps to determine the meaning of the text

Summarize the story or poem

Spooky Stories, song-writers, and silly starters: multiple writings using tone and mood, figurative language and dialogue for effect

Apply rules for commas and capitals in writing (We will start a "no excuse" list for capitalization and some punctuation that they have used since kindergarten) We have set expectations and retaught - students are not doing this and often write as if they are texting. They will lose points if they do not:

Capitalize beginning of sentence

Capitalize names

Capitalize correctly (i.e. randomly in the middle of a word)  
Punctuate end of sentence, or add some punctuation to a paragraph  
Use quotation marks for dialogue or citing evidence

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

Native Americans: housing, culture, resources, locations, interaction with explorers  
The website was updated with some pictures from the Angel Mounds Field Trip ([nanceninjas.com](http://nanceninjas.com) > Our Class)

#### SCIENCE

Finish up the phases of the moon tomorrow. See updates on the website ([nanceninjas.com](http://nanceninjas.com) > science) for more info.  
Start studying about stars and constellations on Thursday.

#### MATH

The students will have a math test over Measurement on Wednesday. The website ([nanceninjas.com](http://nanceninjas.com) > math) has been updated with everything the students need, as well as sample problems.

I need to get math test retakes scheduled with individual students. If your child is planning to retake anything from the Multiplication test or the Division test, please have them come let me know when they are prepared to retake the assessment. The retakes will take place before school, during Interventions, during recess, and during WINN time. They will choose which they prefer. They must be completed by next Thursday, 10/6.

The next unit will include classifying polygons, area, and volume.

HAVE A GREAT DAY!!

Mrs. Simone Elmi Nance, Ed. D.  
West Terrace Elementary School  
5th Grade Team