



Dear Parents/Guardians of Room 505,

October 16, 2025

Welcome to the 2nd quarter of 5th grade! We are following the school theme of **G.**(Grow)**A.**(Achieve)**M.**(Master)**E.**(Excel). Here is an overview of the skills and concepts we will focus on during the next 8 weeks:

- **Reading:** For the next few weeks, we will be reading The Breadwinner. It is a beautifully written story that is about an 11 year old who is forced by circumstances to be the "breadwinner" of her family in Afghanistan. The novel focuses on the themes of sacrifice, identity and self-discovery, family, change, love and fear. The students will focus on vocabulary, comprehension, comparing/contrasting, author's point of view, and plot development. The students will have the opportunity to write an essay and use map skills as a culminating activity. We will also work on the ARC program reading independently at home daily to have a minimum of 120 min due each Friday on their logs. Thanks for reminding your child to read because it truly will pay off on their fluency, vocabulary & comprehension. IXL website has 3 assignments due each Sunday for a homework grade, to help with context clues, inference, comprehension, vocabulary, sequencing, author's point of view and theme.
- **Writing:** We are finishing our spooky narratives and will write a definition poem after our Shedd trip. Following the Lucy Caulkin's writing program, your child will also work on information/expository prompts, poetry, and narrative writing with increasing complexity. Through writing and discussion, they will develop high-level thinking skills, including regular chances to synthesize, analyze, and critique written pieces. Starting Oct. 20, Word study pretests will be given each Monday so children will know what words to focus on for their **weekly Friday Word Study test**.
- **Math:** We will be working on Ch. 5-6 in our Envision Math workbooks which include dividing decimals, dividing whole numbers and problem solving skills. Please practice **memorizing multiplication facts** with your child because this helps with automaticity, confidence and perseverance. Freckle website should be worked on each night for 15 minutes to help your child's understanding deepen of each concept.
- **Social Science:** While using their consumable textbooks, we will learn about "The First Americans", "Age of Exploration", & "Settling & Life in the Colonies". Your child will be given a chance to work with a small group during school and on their own time to research and report information about the **Native American tribe** of their choice. Following a rubric that will be provided soon, they will give an oral presentation about the shelter, location, foods, attire, everyday life and interesting facts about the tribe and produce at least one artifact (i.e.- winter count, diorama, clothing, etc.) **due Monday, November 10th**. The focus of this project will be on the Native Americans of the West, Southwest, Plains, and Eastern Woodlands. The students will gain a better understanding of these groups and their cultures. The students will study maps, read line and circle graphs, and study timelines also. In December, we will also study "**Holiday/Winter Celebrations from Around the World**" and traditions of several cultures and families in our classrooms. Your child will do a short oral report on what traditions your family participates in:)
- **Science:** We just finished studying Mass/Weight/Volume, Solids/Liquids/Gases, Matter, & Chemical properties & changes. We will be doing some fun group projects like a pumpkin catapult, bone bridge and other STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) projects and experiments following the NGSS standards. The next unit we'll be studying is the solar system including the Earth's rotation, moon, planets, eclipses, etc..

Friendly Reminders:

- Picture Day is tomorrow. Wear your "Sunday Best" and practice smiling:)
- **Field Trip permission slip needs to be signed & returned asap along with \$9 fee being paid in Aspen.**
- Please ensure your child is on time to school by 7:45am (**Reading instruction starts at 7:55am**) :)
- **Red folder returned to school (Book log stays on the right side pocket) & graded papers/notes emptied** each day & Sports water bottle (optional).
- Reading daily and completing 3 IXL Reading assignments by each Monday is mandatory. Your child should be **reading at least 15 min. at home daily & documenting it on the log**. 3 IXL assignments are due each Sunday for a Reading HW grade.
- After calling your child absent into the office and letting me know, be sure your child checks the assignments in Google Classroom so they won't be too far behind if it's an extended absence. The **audio for the novel is always in GC Reading:**)
- **Some fifth graders may need your guidance in staying organized and completing assignments on time.**
Thanks to all the adults at home who have helped donate supplies, helped answer any questions & ensured assignments are completed on time. **We're so grateful for a wonderful class and supportive parents:)**
- The easiest way to reach us is the Remind App (Please sign up if you have not done so:), email or note. You can still sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences on 10/27. (**Check email sent from Mrs. Harnedy to sign up**)



- **Working together** to ensure your child's success will **help your child succeed in fifth grade.**
- Thanks for your support and please contact us with any comments or concerns :)

Mrs. Barb Damiani (BADamiani@cps.edu)

Mrs. Harnedy (mbharnedy@cps.edu)

Thanks for all the donations, prizes and treats for the party! Happy Halloween! Be sure to have your child bring a **pillow case or large bag** for the goodies passed out from their 24 classmates.

Donations still needed: Treats for the party (ie-Jewel sugar/Chocolate chip cookies, popsicles, Toilet paper rolls for Mummy Wrap, candy corn, candy pumpkins