

January 30, 2020

Highlights:

Tissues- Help, we need them!

NOVA- February 11th

Valentine's Day- see page 2 for details

Dear Parents,

Happy (almost) February! I hope that this finds you happy and well! The class has been hard at work, and recently, inspired by their collective diligence, I sat them down to tell them how much I appreciated their attentiveness during instruction. Yay, class!

❖ **What We Have Been Working On**

In **social studies**, we are approaching to the conclusion of our work on early to mid-colonial life in the American Colonies. Through these chapters, the class worked on the skill of notetaking. We will continue with social studies, in the third trimester, as we continue on the road to The Revolution. Students will also continue with revising notetaking strategies in preparation for the first assessments where they will not only need to take, but also study from their notes.

We will soon begin a **science** unit, entitled *Nature's Recyclers*. Bacteria, mold, decomposition, scavengers, worms, and dung beetles are just some of the exciting topics that we will be covering!

In **reading**, students have recently read several books connected to American Colonial life. We have read *Roanoke: The Lost Colony* and *If You Lived in Colonial Times*. We are currently reading the novel, *Toliver's Secret*, which is a fiction story about a girl who becomes a Patriot spy during the Revolutionary War.

In **language arts**, the class has just finished writing personal narratives, and are currently working to finish "diamante" poetry. After that, we are on to research and informative writing connected to our science unit.

In **math**, my math class is working with decimals, in Chapter 4.

❖ Tissues

We have one box left and can use some more. If you have not sent in any this year, please send some in, if you are able. Thanks! 😊

❖ NOVA: Cyber-Bullying

Thankfully- this is NOT a problem in class (as far as I know)! On February 11, a representative from Bucks County NOVA will be coming to 5th grade classrooms to present information about the topic. The presentation works to help students understand what it is, and how not to engage in it. I think that this is a good topic to address with 5th graders. Please save the date, so that you can discuss it with your child, afterward, in order to reinforce what was discussed.

❖ Valentine's Day

On February 13th, we will take a short amount of time to observe Valentine's Day. In 5th grade, Valentine's Day tends to be "low key." Students will be given fifteen minutes to exchange cards, before our end of day special. Participation is completely optional. However, those who choose to bring cards in, need to bring in one for every student in class (addressing the envelope, is not even required). There are 22 students in class. Also, because of allergies, we are unable to have students bring in and exchange food items. Finally, it is requested that students bring in a bag to bring the Valentines home in, since they will not be opening them in school. Thanks, in advance, for your help with this.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Know that I will contact you if any concerns arise on my end. I am wishing you and your family, a wonderful and healthy February.

With great sincerity,
Mr. VanZant