

January 30, 2020

## Fifth Grade News

Greetings Parents,

### Reading/Writing/Language Arts

Daily small group reading instruction has been taking place and will remain a central part of the reading program for the rest of the year. In addition, whole class read alouds have been taking place on a regular basis, and our focus in this area in coming weeks will include an exploration of poetry and the particular features and devices that poets often use, such as metaphor, simile, personification and onomatopoeia. In writing, students have been drafting opinion pieces that are supported with text evidence.

### Math 5

Students will continue working with fractions. We begin the marking period by multiplying fractions by a fraction that is less than one and greater than one. We will be using area models to help with the understanding of multiplication of fractions and learning how to resize numbers. It is also important that students keep practicing their multiplication and division facts.

### Compacted Math 5/6

Students in Compacted Math have just finished units on long division, completing operations with decimals, and interpreting word problems involving division of fraction. In the coming weeks they will be learning about integers, rational numbers, and performing operations with each.

### Science

For the new marking period, we will begin a unit of study on Astronomy, starting first with an exploration of the properties of light waves, as well as the resources of planet Earth that allow for life to survive here. Our knowledge of our home planet will then serve as a touchstone for comparisons with the other planets and objects in our solar system and beyond. We will also investigate the causes of such phenomena as the seasons, the lunar cycle and lunar and solar eclipses. Finally, our engineering design challenge will involve designing a mock 'cube satellite'.

### Social Studies

In Social Studies, we will examine the relationship between physical and human characteristics and how they affect settlement patterns today. We will explore how recent changes in transportation have impacted the growth and development of modern towns and cities.

**On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, a counselor from Silver Spring International Middle School came to discuss what middle school will be like at SSIMS. Students were given a yellow course registration form for next year. Please look over those materials carefully with your child and return the completed form promptly (the due date is February 7<sup>th</sup>). There will be a presentation at SSIMS on the evening of January 30<sup>th</sup> to provide more information.**

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Stonerook  
Kimberly\_A\_Stonerook@mcpsmd.org

David Gibson  
David\_M\_Gibson@mcpsmd.org

Mariam Mutafian  
Mariam\_T\_Mutafian@mcpsmd.org