

SCCS 5th Grade News
December 10, 2009

Dear Parents,

Here are some reminders for you about upcoming events and things to note:

*The Advent Concert is tonight at 6:30! Please have your child here by 6:15 pm.

Students are to dress up for this occasion.

*Jack Frost with all of his winter bluster, snow, cold and windy weather is here to nip at our nose and toes. Please be sure that your child dresses for the weather – hats and gloves/mittens, snow pants, boots and coat.

*A 3M Wizard will visit our science classes to demonstrate Cryogenics in conjunction with our study of the states of matter on Friday, December 18th.

*Thank you for supporting our Marathon! We reached our \$80,000 goal, so there will be no school on Wednesday, December 23rd.

*Please send a note with your child when s/he will not be going home in the usual way. This helps us and prevents last minute phone calls to ask for rides home. Be sure to call the office if you have an unexpected change in plans.

Reading: This week we are reading *Going Back Home*, a story about an artist who returns to the South to learn about her heritage. Skills practiced in this week's story are author's purpose and point of view, summarizing, reading a family tree and multiple-meaning words. Next week, we finish the unit with the Time for Kids article, *A Mountain of a Monument*. The Unit 3 test will follow.

Language: Students are presenting their Crafty Creations this week in class and are beginning work on their cereal box book reports. We continue our work in grammar on past, present, and future tense verb use.

Math (Rustin & Lehman): Throughout the next week, we will be working on Order of Operations, Graphing Ordered Pairs and Using Tables and Graphs. The Chapter 3 test will be given before the Christmas Break. Please watch your child's planner for an exact date as we approach the end of the chapter. Don't forget that you can use the online textbook for homework, review and more practice. We will continue studying division with 2 digit divisors in our next chapter.

Math (Thomas): We are back in our red Middle School Math book in the second chapter. Our side trip to the green math book enhanced our understanding of the topics studied in this chapter, as we will explore many more areas of measurement and statistics. Some fun opportunities to do graphing and data collections will present themselves over the next two weeks.

Math (Bates): This week, the students took their first quiz on Chapter 5 covering the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers. Chapter 5 continues with measuring and converting customary units. The Chapter 5 test will be on Thursday, December 17th.

Social Studies: We have returned to Chapter 3 in our textbook to study ancient American civilizations. We will study the Maya, Aztec, Inca, Anasazi and Mound Builders.

Science: We have begun our Physical Science *Unit E – The Building Blocks of Matter*. In the first chapter, we study matter and its properties. Students will be taking quizzes on each lesson (watch planners). Nearly all material will be from the 5th grade science book, but some material on the Scientific Method will come from other sources. Only those topics covered in the book will be on the quizzes and tests. We will welcome Mr. Jim Pedginski, 3M Visiting Wizard, on Friday, December 18th as he conducts his program on Cryogenics. This will be a fun way to learn more about the states of matter and the scientific method.

Spanish: The fifth graders have begun the unit on the home. In this unit, the students learn sentence formation required to ask questions and state responses in complete sentences. Several grammar points will also be introduced. Please note that the Spanish assignment is posted on PowerSchool. If a further explanation is needed for any given assignment, consult this website.

Religion: Our journey through Advent continues. Assignments, Advent folders and artwork make this a lively time. We have had an intense time practicing for our Advent Concert. We hope you will all enjoy the music. Kris Kringle (Secret Santa) names will be chosen soon. Students will get the chance to be kind and generous to a classmate from Tuesday, December 15th to our party date, December 22nd. We encourage good deeds and gifts that cost little or no money. The final gift will be opened at the party and should cost no more than \$5.00. Please help your child determine the best way to bless his/her K.K. during this time.

Blessing of the season to you and your families as we prepare for the birth of Christ.

Your 5th Grade Teachers,
Mrs. Thomas, Rustin & Lehman