

**Dear Parents,**

**November 5, 2009**

We look forward to seeing you all tonight or tomorrow at the parent/teacher conferences to share with you what your child is learning here in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We encourage you to keep updated on Powerschool regarding your child's grades in each of his/her classes. As always, please send us an email or voicemail if you have any questions or concerns. If you wish to meet with one of us, please call in advance to set up a meeting time so that we can give you our full and undivided attention.

**A few important dates and reminders:**

Nov. 6 - No School (Parent-Teacher Conferences/ Staff Development)  
Nov. 12- Middle School play 9:45am/ Ronald McDonald presentation 2:00pm  
Nov. 16- Fall Writing Extravaganza takes place in each homeroom  
Nov. 20 – Minnesota History Center Fieldtrip  
Nov. 24 – End of Trimester 1  
Nov. 25- No School (Thanksgiving break)

**Operation Christmas Child Boxes:** This is the perfect opportunity to bring Christmas joy and hope to children in desperate situations all over the world! Student council members came to each classroom this week to share an example of a packed gift box. The goal this year is for each student to contribute 1 gift box. The classroom with the most boxes collected will also win an ice-cream party. Boxes can be brought to the school office or the classroom through Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Thanksgiving Feast:** Each classroom will be having a special Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Please watch for a handout to come home requesting an item for your son/daughter to bring for our special meal. This will be in place of our regular lunch that day, so no need to send a lunch or purchase one.

**READO due date correction: READO is due on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. As of today your child has \_\_\_\_\_ of the 5 required squares completed on his/her chart.**

**Reminder:** Fieldtrip permission slips were due today for the Minnesota History Center fieldtrip on Friday, November 20th. If you have not already done so, please return with payment as soon as possible. **We will notify you if selected as a chaperone for this trip.**

**A peek at our classes:**

**Language:** Students took the unit test on Sentences this week. Please watch for those to come home for a signature early next week. Next, we begin work in Explanatory writing where students explain through writing how to do something. We will complete several activities, short papers, and even create a crafty creation to demonstrate for the class.

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**Reading:** This week we read *Digging up the Past*, the Time For Kids article about archaeologists who uncover the 400-year-old site of colonial Jamestown and find clues to colonial life. **The Unit 2 test will follow.**

**Reading: (Doeksen)** We are now reading "Hanah's Suitcase" and writing persuasive writings. Last week's assignment was to persuade yourself to give up your Halloween candy! I can't wait to read the student's writings!

**Math: (Rustin & Lehman)** Please sign and return the Ch. 2 test as soon as possible. We have started Ch. 3 Dividing with One-Digit Divisors. The focus of this chapter is the operation of division using patterns, estimation, and the division algorithms. Also, we will complete several lessons of Ch. 9 Measurement as students will be using both customary and metric systems of measurement, time and temperature in Science during the next few weeks.

**Course 1 Math: (Mrs. Thomas)** Following a wrap up of our metric math activities, we will be reviewing and learning some basic geometry principles as we practice our measurement skills using both the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Scott-Foresman Math and our Course 1 Middle School Math books.

**Course 2 Math: (Bates)** The students completed their study on the averages of a data set and use of bar and line graphs. They are beginning the next chapter on finding the greatest common factor and the least common multiple of two or more numbers.

**Social Studies:** Look for the Fur Trade Unit test to come home this week for your signature. Our next unit focuses on Minnesota Geography with some hands-on activities using the Nystrom maps of Minnesota with the students.

**Religion:** Our season of Thanksgiving has begun. Though we are called to be thankful in all things and at all times, we especially do so during these weeks of November. In our studies within the next few weeks, we will concentrate on learning more of Jesus as God and Man, and focus our activities on Thanksgiving.

**Science:** We have just completed our first "AgMag" – a publication of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The focus of this issue was how agriculture is everywhere and how we use it in some way every day. Then in the following two weeks we will use tools of measurement to reinforce our understanding of the Metric System of measurement. Class times will be predominantly a lab format. Science books will not be used. Later we move into Unit E and begin our study of Matter and its Properties. On November 16 we will welcome Kirk Mona from Warner Nature Center as he brings in his Phabulous Indicators program as the first of the WNC Outreach visits.

**Have a wonderful upcoming weekend!**

**Mrs. Rustin, Mrs. Lehman & Mrs. Thomas**