



Volume 1, Issue 4

January Issue

Mrs. Wagner
Poynette Elementary
5th GRADE

January News

Happy New Year!

Happy 2017! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful and relaxing holiday break. The holidays always seem to pass by quickly, especially when we are surrounded by the ones we love! May 2015 bring you joy, happiness, and good health! I look forward to even more fun and learning in fifth grade this new year!



History Night 2017

Be on the “lookout” for a document called, History Night: A Blast From the Past. We’ll (5th grade teachers) be introducing *History Night 2017* this month. This is an exciting event! All 5th graders will be working on an American History Project. We’re still finalizing a date, so when we have the date confirmed we’ll share it with you. Students will present their topic (paper and board) one evening in the elementary/middle school library. Students are requested to be there and we hope you can make it too.

Students will be picking topics in the near future. Topics will be selected from our social studies text book and an established list. We will be using a lottery system to determine selection order. More information will be coming home with your child in the future that will highlight deadlines. Please “check-in” with your child regarding their progress with the project to help make this a successful experience for your child.

We will begin this individual research project by reading and gathering information. Students will complete much of the reading here at school, but please monitor this at home as well. Students will be responsible for notes, a two-page typed paper (done at school), a short presentation explaining the topic (can be practiced at home), and complete a presentation board (completed AT HOME).

Inside this issue:

Happy New Year	1
January Book Report	1
History Night 2017	1
Curriculum	2
Upcoming Dates	2
Winter Reminders	2

January Book Report

In January students will create a mobile to display information on a great book that they chosen to read. Students can create their own mobile or they can use a template provided by me. The mobile should highlight a book summary, setting, genre, main character(s), connections, and a book rating. One new area that will be assessed this month is a fluency check. Students will be responsible for reading a passage/page aloud to the class. The goal of the fluency check is for students to read in larger, meaningful phrases. Their reading rate and expression should be guided by punctuation within the selection.

Special points of interest:

- * Happy New Year!
- * History Night 2017
- * Upcoming Dates



CURRICULUM

Math The main purpose of Unit 7, “Exponents and Negative Numbers,” is to investigate prealgebra concepts and skills. Students are introduced to the notational conventions of exponents, scientific notation, and number-and-word notation. They will develop rules for the addition and subtraction of positive and negative numbers and continue with the American Tour by using the data to construct graphs.

Literacy Throughout the month we will continue to participate in the various components of Daily 3 (Read to Self, Work on Writing, and Word Work). Students will continue to build stamina in each of these areas and will continue to grow as independent readers and writers. Students will receive small group and one-on-one instruction based on these goals in order to help them gain the skills necessary to become proficient readers and writers.

We continue to participate in Daily Language Review (D.L.R.) lessons for fifth grade. This frequent and focused practice leads to mastery and retention of the skills practiced. The skills that are covered are punctuation, grammar, comprehension, vocabulary/word study, reference skills, and capitalization.

Students will continue to practice words within a specific prefix/suffix group during word work (spelling). The goal is for students to understand word part meanings and to infer the meaning of new words with the same word part. Students will also practice a “Word of the Week” and a homophone pair weekly.

We are also learning and practicing writing according to the Six Traits Model. This program teaches the writing traits across the stages of the writing process and across the curriculum.

Science Students will become engaged in a new science unit called *How Landforms Change*. Students will become engaged in lessons surrounding the unifying concept that Earth is constantly changing. They will investigate three subconcepts: the outermost of Earth’s four layers is the crust, where all landforms are found; movement within Earth’s crust builds and changes landforms; and physical and chemical weathering change landforms.

Social Studies Students are studying American history. Throughout the month students will explore Colonial America. Students will study the Southern Colonies including Williamsburg, Jamestown, Pocahontas, John Smith, and the House of Burgesses.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



UPCOMING DATES



- Jan. 3...School Resumes...Happy New Year!
- Jan. 3...December Reading Minute Calendar Due
- Jan. 9-13...Kaitlyn’s V.I.P. of the Week
- Jan. 19...January Book Order Due (optional)
- Jan. 20...No School...Professional Development Day
(for teachers)
- Jan. 23-27...Luke’s V.I.P. Week
- Jan. 30...January Book Report Due
- Jan. 30– Feb. 3...Erin’s V.I.P. Week

Winter Reminders

Now that winter is here to stay (BRR!!!), please remind your child to wear his/her snow gear to school everyday. Dressing appropriately for recess will help students enjoy their time outside in the fresh winter air! Also, please remind encourage your child to pack their shoes (and possibly even extra socks) in their backpacks so they don’t have to wear their wet foot gear throughout the school day. This is especially important on phy-ed days (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursdays). Thank you for your help!

