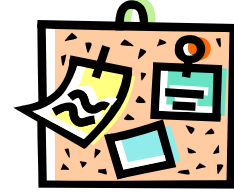


Fifth Grade News



Battle of the Books

The fifth-grade students are beginning their year long "Battle of the Books" reading program. The students, placed in groups, will attempt to read as many as 15 books, and later participate in a Jeopardy style competition in June. This exciting reading program motivates children to read more, as well as fostering the development of skills needed to work cooperatively in groups. Ask your child to tell you more about this wonder program!

Science

In our science classes, we explored the various types of living organisms and how scientists classify living things into the five kingdoms. We learned the difference between plant and animal cells. Our next step is to

investigate how different organisms reproduce. Cell division, chromosomes, and genes are all important as we discover how we inherit different traits. How different organisms adapt to their environments will teach us how species survive and endure.

Social Studies

The fifth-grade social studies classes have just completed a unit on map skills. The children worked cooperatively in pairs to read and interpret various types of maps. They also created their own symbol maps, physical maps, and learned how to use Google Earth! Soon, they will begin their study with a focus on the Vikings, Columbus, and many other European explorers.

Health

We began our year with the study of character education.

Through role-playing, skits, and literature connections, we are learning the importance of the six

pillars of character and how to apply them to our lives. We read *Mr. Lincoln's Way*, a touching story about a boy who learns how to fight prejudice and embrace diversity in his life.

Red Ribbon Week was an awesome opportunity to express our feelings of zero tolerance against drugs, alcohol, and violence. Each class composed a pledge and designed a poster to be displayed in the halls for all to enjoy. We read the book, *The Red Ribbon*, a story about the power of people working together, regardless of their differences.