



Third quarter is off to a great start! I hope everyone had a restful break and wonderful holiday. I wanted to remind you that your child is responsible for cleaning and organizing their binders. We've already had issues with lost papers. There have also been organization concerns regarding their school space (ie: desks and cubbies). I appreciate your support with helping your child understand the value of keeping their belongings organized and neat.

Stay Up to Date



To stay up to date be sure to read each issue of the "Rockin' Croc Times", follow us on Twitter @sycamorecreek5, and visit our [website](http://www.sycamore5th.weebly.com). (www.sycamore5th.weebly.com).

IMPORTANT DATES

2/9: Science Projects Due

2/9: Early Release

2/8: Human Growth and Development Parent meeting (Multi-purpose room)

2/8: Book Fair family night

3/22: Poe Health Center Field Trip



Pick of the Week: Liam C.

Croc with Character: Allie

CHOMP Update

Students are demonstrating the CHOMP expectations within our classroom nicely. However, there have needed to be friendly reminders to students about their CHOMPing as we've transitioned from the classroom to the hallway as well as in the cafeteria. Also, many of you may have noticed that some changes have been made to Class Dojo. There will not be points taken away for minor infractions. These behaviors have also changed to better match PBIS expectations. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

Backpack Buddies

We need your help collecting donations for our Backpack Buddy Program. This program provides food for students in our community for weekends and extended holidays/track out. You can sign up to donate or volunteer here:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/508084CAEA822A2F94-back

Thank you for your support. Please reach out if you have any questions or suggestions!

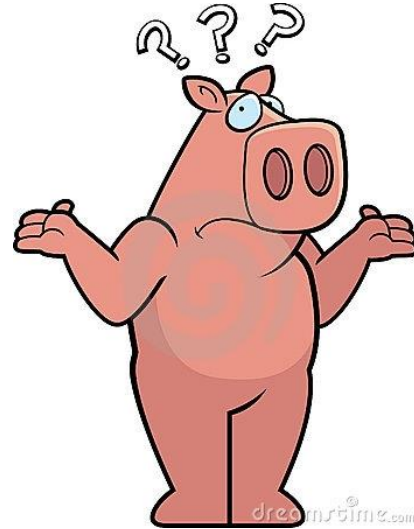
Newsworthy Announcements

HG&D Parent Meeting

February 8, from 5-6 pm

(multi-purpose room)

We have scheduled a parent meeting for new and returning 5th grade families in order to gain insight into the Human Growth and Development unit we teach the students. If you have not had a 5th grader in the past, it is highly encouraged you try to attend this meeting. We will review the curriculum that is provided by Wake County that we will be teaching from. There will be time for all questions to be answered as well.



Clear - 2 Liter Bottles

We are in need of 36-2 Liter bottles for our upcoming science unit. Within this unit, students will be studying ecosystems and will create terrariums and aquariums in these bottles. If you are able to send some in, that would be FANTASTIC. Please make sure they have been rinsed and dried as well as possible. This unit will begin in 2 weeks.

Book Fair

Our class will attend the book fair to...

Preview: February 7 at 12:45 pm

Buy: February 12 at 12:20 pm

**I Spy an
Ecosystem!**



**Be awesome!
Be a BOOK NUT!
- Dr. Seuss**

Curriculum Update

Math: In math this week, we began our order of operations unit. Students have been provided a mini-anchor chart (note sheet) with the PEMDAS process on it. Many students have been using this daily as a tool to help them when solving expressions. On Wednesday, the class practiced simplifying equations that had a variety of grouping symbols in them. Students had the opportunity to work on various practice problems with partners. On Thursday and Friday, we analyzed expressions in word form and practiced writing these correctly. It is important that your child understands the various names used for each operation.

Reading: In reading, this week, the students were introduced to the fantasy unit. They have learned the elements of fantasy and how this genre helps teach students a deeper meaning to life and the lessons we learn from existing. On Monday, they completed a card sort. They read various statements and determined if the idea could or could not happen. On Wednesday, they read an excerpt from Peter Pan and had to identify the fantasy elements and provide examples of how these elements depicted the genre of fantasy. We began our whole class novel, The Phantom Tollbooth. This text will be used throughout the unit to reinforce the mini-lesson skills being taught. In writing, students are gaining foundational skills for writing their own fantasy. We've spent a lot of time this week talking about critical characters, settings and objects and how author's strategically plan when to stop the action in order to describe one or more of these critical parts of the narrative.

Social Studies: In social studies, the students are learning about government. To begin the unit, they developed a background of 4 major types of government. They worked as teams to determine the best and worst type of government using evidence from the texts they read. We then learned about the Articles of Confederation. Students watched a Brainpop video and completed a Star graphic organizer to demonstrate what they learned about this document. On Thursday, they completed a close read on this topic and read a skit of Shay's Rebellion and an article from the Maryland Gazette. We will continue this unit for the next two weeks.

OBJECTIVES



I Can Statements:

I Can... In order to bring purpose to what your child is learning, we post I CAN statements on our board daily. It is important that your child is continually utilizing these to evaluate their understanding. You can check in with your student by discussing the following statements.

Math:

- use parentheses, brackets and braces to simplify an expression.

Reading:

- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarizes the text.

Writing:

- Write fantasy writing pieces that integrate the elements of a fantasy

Social Studies:

Understand different forms of government and can explain the beginning documents that were designed after the American Revolution.