

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome Back!

I was very excited to see our students and welcome them back on Monday. We have many exciting events happening over the course of the third quarter. From Student Led Conferences on March 16th to the DARE program we have a lot to look forward to. I hope all of you had a wonderful track out and are just as excited as I am for the third quarter!

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).

CHOMP Update

This week our students have done well getting back to work. We did a very great job of CHOMPing while in the cafeteria and in our specialist classes. We are still a little chatty in the hallway and could be earning many more CHOMPliments over the course of the day. We will also be voting on our class choice CHOMPliment reward. Watch this space for more information next week.

We currently have 172 CHOMPliments

IMPORTANT DATES



- 1/23 – Track In
- 1/26 – Croc 5 Chorus
- 1/27 – School Spelling Bee
- 2/2 – Croc 5 Chorus
- 2/9 – Family Night (Book Fair)
- 2/9 – Parent Meeting Human Growth (5-6pm in the Gym)
- 2/10 – Science Project Due
- 2/11 – Science Expo
- 2/14 – Yearbook Pictures
- 2/16 – Croc 5 Chorus
- 2/23 – Croc 5 Chorus
- 2/24 – Quarter 3 Interims



Pick of the Week: Dylan



Croc w/ Character: Ava

"What is success? I think it is a mixture of having flair for the thing that you are doing; knowing that it is not enough, that you have got to have hard work and a certain sense of purpose."

-Margaret Thatcher

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Character Trait Description

The character trait for the month of December at Sycamore Creek is "self-discipline". Self-discipline is one of the important ingredients of success. It expresses itself in a variety of ways:

- Perseverance.
- The ability not to give up, despite failure and setbacks.
- Self-control.
- The ability to resist distractions or temptations.
- Trying over and over again, until you accomplish what you set out to do.

Newsworthy Announcements

Student Council Book Drive

Families ready your shelves for the book fair by cleaning out any gently used books (K-5th grade) that your children are no longer using. Student Council is hosting a book drive for WAKE Up & Read. They are a local initiative that wants to give all students the chance to read, and puts gently used books in the hands of Wake County students who can't afford to buy books themselves. There will be bins in front of the gym, and the drive will run from February 6th - 17th. Thanks for your support!



“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.

New Student Registration for 2017-18 opens Jan. 5, 2017.

Sycamore Creek Elementary will have open enrollment beginning Thursday, January 5th between 9:00 - 2:00 p.m. Hours of enrollment for the week of January 9th - 13th will be 9:00 - 1:00 p.m. Beginning January 17th we will have open enrollment every Tuesday and Thursday between 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

A child must be 5 years old on or before August 31 of the current school year to attend kindergarten.

TIPS FOR REGISTERING YOUR CHILD

- You must register at your base school.
- Complete your paperwork ahead of time.
- Children do not need to be present for registration. In fact, it is preferable to make arrangements to register without your children present as schools will be very busy.

For more information about open enrollment or to get materials needed for enrollment, please visit Wake County Schools' website (<http://www.wcpss.net/domain/56>). **You may also contact our school data manager, Karen Prosser at (919) 841-4333 if you have any questions.**

It is close to that wonderful time in fifth grade when students will learn about Human Growth and Development. To help you prepare for these lessons, the fifth grade will be hosting a parent information night in the gymnasium from 5:00 - 6:00 on February 9th. There is also a copy of the curriculum in the office. Lessons will taught at the end of March, from March 20 - 23.

Upcoming Events

Student Led Conferences

On March 16th from 3:45-6:45, track four will have their student lead conferences. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss your students' progress with them and witness many of the strategies we utilize in class. In approximately two weeks, I will be sending out a signup genius email in which you will be able to sign up for a 30 minute time slot.

Book Fair

Our Class will preview the book fair on Feb. 8 from 12:45 - 1:00. We will purchase books the following day on Feb. 9 from 12:40 - 1:00.

Science Expo

The Sycamore Creek science expo will take place on February 11, 2017. 5th grade students are required to complete a science project. Although, they are not required to partake in the science expo, those that do participate will receive a homework pass and valuable experience. Classroom science projects are due on February 10th. Several weeks ago in Friday folder there was a flyer and a rubric for the project. If you happened to have misplaced your flyer or rubric it can be located at our website's homepage (www.sycamore5th.weebly.com).

Curriculum Update

Math: In Math this week we began discussing order of operations involving expressions. First, we reviewed the specific order of operations with our students. Students were quick to remember the PEMDAS acronym. It is important to remember that multiplication and division are equal, as are addition and subtraction. For example, in this equation $(10 \div 2 \times 4 + 6)$ the division should be completed first and then the multiplication followed finally by the addition. In this equation $(15 - 10 \div 5 + 3)$ the division of 10 and five would be completed first, followed by the subtraction because it is before the addition in the equation. Finally, you would add three and come to the solution of 16. Next we started adding different versions of parenthesis, [brackets] and {braces}. These tell you the order of which to solve problems. It is important for students to remember to work from the inside out. First the problems within the parenthesis, then all of the problems in the brackets and finally the braces. We ended the week by writing equations from written words. For example, double the product of 4 and 6 then add two would be written as such $[2 \times (4 \times 6)] + 2$. We will continue to practice these skills at the beginning of next week.

Reading: In Reading this week, we began our new unit related to fantasy. We started this week by looking at events that could never happen versus moments that could actually occur. Next, we reviewed the general characteristics and elements of fantasy stories. For example, fantasy stories often have a main character that has to restore order to a universe. We typically will learn a lesson from the story through its theme. On Thursday and Friday we reviewed an excerpt of J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" and searched for evidence of a strong fantasy story. Students then charted out evidence of the fantasy story on a graphic organizer. We also listened to the first chapter of "Alice's Adventure in Wonderland" to find evidence of fantasy stories. Students seem to be very excited about our new genre study and I strongly encourage them to read various fantasy stories over the course of the next few weeks.

Writing: In Writing this week we started discussing our next writing genre, fantasy writing. Students read various fantasy stories on Monday and Tuesday in small groups noting the elements of fantasy within the stories they read. The students discussed the stories with their group and made notes about the stories. Next on Wednesday and Thursday, students crafted a short story using a wordless fantasy picture book. Next week students will begin crafting their fantasy story by selecting a theme they would like to teach their readers. They will also start to develop their main characters.

Social Studies/Science: This week in social studies we started our unit on the government of the United States. Students will learned about the three branches of our government and their functions. This week students learned about our government's foundation by learning about the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Students worked in small groups to review the statements of the preamble. Students wrote the preamble in kid friendly language and gave their reasons why this statement is essential. Next, students reviewed the articles of the Constitution and worked in small groups to create a Google Slides presentation for their particular article.

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:

- I can use parenthesis and brackets in expressions.

- I can write expressions I hear using mathematical symbols and the order of operations.

Reading:

- I can determine a theme based on details in a fantasy text.

- I can summarize a fantasy text.

Writing:

- I can write narratives to develop imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Social Studies:

- I can understand the structure and function of government in the United States.