



## Happy Holidays and Happy Track Out!

I wanted to take a moment and wish a Happy Holidays to you and your family. I hope that you have an enjoyable track out and holiday season filled with memories to last a life time. Thank you all so much for a wonderful first two quarters of the school year. I cannot believe that we are essentially through the first half of the year.

## 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](http://www.sycamore5th.weebly.com)).

## IMPORTANT DATES



12/15 - Croc 5 Holiday Concert 6:30

12/21 - Track-Out - Report Cards/

12/29 - Service Project



Pick of the Week: Robyn



Croc w/ Character: Nyasia

*"We make a living by what we get, but  
we make a life but what we give."*  
-Winston Churchill

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## CHOMP Update

I've been especially proud of our students this week as we have our track out coming up. Our Rockin' Crocs have earned their CHOMPliments in each of our specials this week. We have also earned our CHOMPliment in the cafeteria each day. I would like for us to continue working on our CHOMPing in the hallway so that we can be positive role models for the younger grade classes. We also selected our second CHOMPliment reward, be on the lookout for more information on this after track out.

We currently have 162 CHOMPliments

## Character Trait Description

The character trait for the month of December at Sycamore Creek is "kindness". Its definition can be stated like this: Kindness is being caring, compassionate, loving, and considerate. A kind person shows concern for the feelings of others and is helpful and generous. A kind person does good deeds without thought of reward.

## Newsworthy Announcements

### Letters for Troops/Pizza Party

On Tuesday December 20, we will be writing Holiday / thank you cards for area veterans. The cards will be written by the students and donated to Mrs. Mehlenbacher's husband who works at a local VA hospital. At 10:40 on the same day we will be having a pizza party in the classroom. Students will be provided pizza and cookies. If they wish to eat something else they may go through the lunch line or pack their lunch.

### Spelling Bee

Several weeks ago in Friday Folders, our Rockin' Crocs received their spelling bee word list for this year's spelling bee. The written test will have 20 words and will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Students that qualify on the written test will move on to the oral test on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Crocodile Cheer

Information regarding our holiday Crocodile Cheer program was sent home in Friday folders several weeks ago. If you have any questions, you are welcome to email Emily Rinkoski (erinkoski@wcpss.net) or Bryan Zelksi (bzelski@wcpss.net)



*“We Rise by  
Lifting  
Others.”  
-Robert  
Ingersoll*

### School Safety

To further enhance the safety of our school the front doors will soon be locked. To gain entrance to the school you will be required to utilize the buzzer system near the front right door. Upon entering the school you will still be required to sign in at the front desk. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to place a high priority on student and faculty safety.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Service Project.

We are quickly approaching the end of the second quarter. At that time we will once again show support to our community and those in need with a service project. I feel it's important for students to see the value and necessity in assisting others that are less fortunate and in need. For this service project, we will be collect nonperishable items for our local food bank. The items will go to individuals affected by Hurricane Matthew and others in our community that are in need. Please see the [attached letter](#) from our fabulous room mom, Mrs. Wagner.

### Science Expo

The Sycamore Creek science expo will take place on February 11, 2017. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to complete a science project however, they are not required to partake in the science expo. However, those that do participate will receive a homework pass and valuable experience. Classroom science projects are due on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Several weeks ago in Friday folder there was a flyer and a rubric for the project.

# Curriculum Update

**Math:** In Math this week we continued our study of dividing decimals. Students used concrete models to learn how to divide decimals by whole numbers. This was challenging for some of our Crocs. Be sure to have them continue to practice these skills over their track out. On Wednesday, we discussed how to utilize number lines to divide decimals by whole numbers. Here are a couple video clips of the methods we learned in class. Dividing decimals by whole numbers using [grids](#), dividing decimals by whole numbers using [number lines](#), dividing decimals by whole numbers using [base ten blocks](#). On Thursday and Friday students practiced solving real world decimal multiplication and division word problems.

**Reading:** In Reading this week, we have continued to work on nonfiction texts, specifically we worked on perspective. Students learned that authors can frequently have different views or accounts of the same event or topic. To begin our lesson on Monday we looked at an optical illusion of a glass vase or two faces. It was interesting for students to connect our understanding of perspective with students visualizing the two different images. Next, we analyzed articles with two different perspectives related to the constitution. The first article we read described the constitution as a difficult document to understand and was needed to be put in kid friendly language. The next article we reviewed discussed a forgotten and often overlooked amendment to the Constitution, the 9<sup>th</sup> amendment. We will continue to discuss author's point of view and perspective next week. We also took our Case 21 assessment in reading and Mr. T began mClass assessments this week. More information from both of these assessments will come after track out.

**Writing:** In Writing this week our students completed their opinion writing piece. I have begun reading and grading these writing pieces this week and am impressed with our students use of the writing strategies we have discussed in class. I plan to get students their writing grades on Monday of next week.

**Social Studies/Science:** This week in social studies we continued our study of the American Revolution and the 13 English Colonies. We learned how these colonies were founded and what made the different regions of the early United States unique. We also discussed the many causes of the American Revolution. Students completed an around the room activity in which they read articles about the various taxes and acts and took notes on each one. We will wrap up our study of the American Revolution next week.

## 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 multiply decimals to the thousandths place.
- I can divide decimals by decimals and whole numbers to the hundredths place.

#### Reading:

- I can determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details.
- I can compare and contrast multiple accounts of the same event or topic.

#### Writing:

- I can identify text evidence to support and refute a claim.

#### Social Studies:

- I can understand how human activity has and continues to shape the United States