



2nd 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.

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 displayed a vast improvement not only in specials, but also in the cafeteria. Our students also did such a great job in the hallway that we earned two CHOMPliments while walking to and from class. I am proud of our students and their behavior as their excitement level increases as we continue to get closer to our track out and the holiday season.

We currently have 155 CHOMPliments

IMPORTANT DATES



12/14 - Track 4 Reading CASE assessment

12/15 - Croc 5 Holiday Concert 6:30

12/21 - Track-Out - Report Cards/Service Project



Pick of the Week: Mary Evelyn



Croc w/ Character: Nyasia

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible."
-Dalai Lama

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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

AIG Nomination Window

Parents of fourth or fifth grade students may nominate their child to be considered for evaluation for the Academically or Intellectually Gifted Program. Nominations are due by December 12th for track 4. All nominations must be in writing and may be returned to Mrs. Hochbrueckner via email or the classroom teacher. When you request an evaluation please include your child's name, grade, track, and teacher. Please let Mrs. Hockbrueckner know if you have any questions at mhockbrueckner@wcpss.net

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 15th. Students that qualify on the written test will move on to the oral test on December 16th.

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.

Reading Case Assessment

Case 21 assessments for reading will be held on December 14th. This is a summative assessment that allows us to gather information about our student's current academic strengths and areas of need.

Croc 5 Holiday Chorus Concert

Come support our fifth grade students and spread some holiday cheer at the Croc 5 fifth grade holiday concert on Thursday, December 15 at 6:30 pm.

Science Expo

The Sycamore Creek science expo will take place on February 11, 2017. 5th grade students are required to complete a science project however, they are not required to partake in the science expo. But 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.

Curriculum Update

Math: In Math this week we wrapped up our short unit on multiplication of decimals. On Tuesday we took a short assessment which provided insight as to how well our students understand the concepts and methods related to multiplication of decimals. On Wednesday, we began to learn about dividing whole numbers by decimals. Our students were surprised to see that when dividing a whole number by a decimal our product was larger than both factors. Next, we continued to learn about division by learning how to divide whole numbers by decimals using number lines. To gain further insight, check out the following videos that display the strategies we are discussing in class: [Dividing decimals: Whole Numbers divided by decimals \(grids\)](#), [whole numbers divided by decimals \(number lines\)](#).

Reading: In Reading this week we continued our study of summaries and began examining author's perspective. Mrs. Mehlenbacher joined us on Tuesday to work with our students in crafting summaries. She taught our Rockin' Crocs a strategy called shrinking a text. Students learned how to formulate a short summary statement from a larger passage by focusing on the main idea of the passage and what the passage is mainly about. We continued to work on this strategy throughout the week. We continued to integrate our Social Studies into our Reading unit by shrinking the text of passages relating to slaves and women during the American Revolution. On Wednesday, we also began to discuss author's perspective. We looked and thought about how two different people can have a different perspective on the same topic or event. On Thursday and Friday we read the aforementioned passages about slaves and women during the American Revolution and discussed the different perspectives individuals had during this time period.

Writing: In Writing this week, we continued to work on our independent opinion writing pieces. Mr. T provided mini lessons for our students about how to craft strong leads for introductions. We also reviewed how to create counter claims that acknowledge the other side's point of view, but strengthen our own viewpoint. We also reviewed powerful techniques to conclude our opinion piece.

Social Studies/Science: This week in science our students finished their second quarter science unit, weather and climate. Students reviewed the content they have learned throughout the second quarter and on Tuesday they took their final weather and climate assessment. Be on the lookout for the assessment in the coming weeks. In Social Studies this week we continued our study of the American Revolution that we have been discussing during reading throughout the second quarter. To begin with we inspected the causes of the American Revolution to gain insight into our countries beginning.

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 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.

Science:

- I can explain the data collected from weather instruments like the thermometer, barometer, anemometer, and a wind vane.

- I can explain the difference between weather and climate.