



## January News

5B

### Reading

We are well into Unit 3 in reading, and learning a lot about inventors and artists. Ask your child how they became an inventor and an artist while reading stories about these important people.

It is always a good idea to review homework and “Family Times” that is sent home every week. This sheet also includes weekly spelling lists. Reviewing will help students to prepare for tests and reinforce skills. Reading assessments will still be given on Fridays. This month we will also continue to read “The Whipping Boy”. Reading assignments from this novel will be given both in class and, at times, as homework assignments.

### Writing/Language Arts

Students write every day. Our large writing piece for this unit is a compare and contrast essay where we are comparing new and old inventions. We are almost done with this assignment, and will take the remainder of the month to work on answering and analyzing open response style questions. Writing assignments are completed in class so students can work through the writing process and become more independent writers. Spelling lists are given on Monday mornings. Students keep their spelling lists in their agendas and on their Family Times sheet.

### Math

Students will be exploring division this month. In Geometry students will be learning about area of triangles, and in measurement we will be learning how to find perimeter and area using different formulas. These formulas will be kept in your child’s math notebook, but can also be found in the math text.

Please remind your child to practice his or her multiplication and division facts regularly. This will help a great deal as we move through division and on to more complex math.

## Social Studies



We will finish our Maya, Aztec, and Inca unit in social studies this month. Information, scoring rubrics, and directions for projects were sent home during the last week of December. Projects are due January 17<sup>th</sup>. After this unit, we will move on to study Vikings.

## Science



As we finish our social studies unit, we will move on to work on energy and simple machines.



## Reminders

- Maya, Aztec, Inca projects are due on January 17<sup>th</sup>!
- Please check in with your child to see if he or she has the materials needed for school (pens, pencils, notebooks, **book covers**, etc.) so he or she can start 2012 off fresh.
- Please remind your child that materials not needed for class should stay at home. **Students should not be bringing in toys or objects that will distract them or others during learning time.**
- All assignments and projects are written in student agendas. Please look at your child's agenda regularly so you can help keep him or her on the right track. It is impossible to "cram" for tests and then retain the information for future use.
- Homework is an extension of class work, and is equally important in learning new skills. Please remember to check your child's agenda and homework daily.