



# Focus on Fifth Grade



Bush Hill Elementary  
School  
November 4, 2009

## Bush Hill Elementary School

### First Quarter Draws to a Close

Quarter 1, Issue 2  
November 4, 2009

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It is hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year is just about to come to an end! The students have been working hard to review previously learned concepts and gain new skills in math, including learning about place-value of whole numbers and decimals from the billions to the thousandths, computational problem solving skills involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

In science, they have been studying about landforms and factors that influence the changing surface of the earth through demonstrations, readings, and drawing and writing in their interactive science notebooks. They have studied fossils, earthquakes, volcanoes, the rock cycle and weathering. In the coming weeks, we will wrap up this unit, participate in review activities, and prepare for an end of unit test, prior to Thanksgiving.

In social studies students reviewed basic concepts of geography, including map making and map reading skills. They learned how to interpret timelines and discussed the many attributes that make up a culture (including food; clothing, shelter; family and social structure; education; religion or belief system; form of government; language; economy; art, innovations, and technology; architecture; and contact and trade) by exploring both contemporary American culture, and the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.

Language arts writing activities for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students focused on grammar activities regarding the four types of sentences, complete and simple subjects and predicates, and on nouns. Students also began learning how to use a graphic organizer for planning and organizing a 5 paragraph essay. Language arts reading activities focused on various non-fiction science materials to support our study of landforms, and on reading and responding to novels.

Instructional activities in both the library and computer lab focused on research and note taking skills using online databases and pre-selected web sites, all designed to support and enhance our social studies curriculum.

Details about what students will be studying, subject-by-subject in the second quarter can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

# Fifth Grade News Letter

## Monthly Science Experiment

Due to the two student holidays at the beginning of the month, and the Thanksgiving holiday break, there will not be a science extension opportunity offered in the month of November.

## Second Quarter Plans

### Math

Students will work on creating and solving problems involving operations with whole numbers. This includes activities such as division finding the quotient and remainder of single digits, double digit, and decimals. They will continue to work on multiplication of single and double digits. Also they will work on recognizing, naming, and order fractions, decimals, and percents.

### Science

Students will learn the layout of the ocean floor and how salinity and temperature affects density, and ultimately currents in the oceans. They'll study the human impact on the ocean ecosystem through hands-on experiments.

Experimental design will be reviewed classroom experiments will be conducted utilizing common household items.

### Language Arts—

Students will address the following skills in writing:

Nouns and verbs

Revising and editing skills

Develop own web, rough draft, and final copy of a 5 paragraph essay to a prompt

Interpret outlines and webs as a basis for an essay

Combining sentences (compound sentences)

Students will address the following skills in reading:

Use non-fiction science trade books to integrate reading skills with the content of the oceans unit.

Work in small groups to complete novels and associated reading comprehension packets.

### Social Studies—

Students will wrap up their study of Mesopotamia with a targeted focus on the impact of geography on a civilization. They will also be introduced to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Global Awareness Technology Project (GATP), a long-term social studies project that students will work on in small groups over the next 2 quarters. Further details regarding this project will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Students will learn to use a variety of reference materials (print, online databases, and peer-reviewed web sites) to conduct research for their research.

Students will also explore the civilization of ancient China.

## November Curriculum Overview Science

We will finish studying light, and will begin to study oceans.

### Social Studies

We will learn about Ancient China.

### Reading

We will read various non-fiction articles about China as well as about the about structure and content of oceans, and we'll read and discuss novels in small group settings.

### Writing

We will continue to use webs and brainstorming techniques to plan, draft, revise, edit, and ultimately publish several 5 paragraph essays in response to various prompts.

### Math

Please refer to your child's math teacher for specific details regarding the November curriculum.

## Upcoming Events

### **Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009**

Thanksgiving Luncheon in the cafeteria

### **Friday, November 20, 2009**

Turkey BINGO in the cafeteria

### **Wednesday, November 25, 2009**

Two hour early dismissal

### **Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27**

School closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

### **November Challenge (Monday, Nov. 30)**

Name all 43 U.S. Presidents, in order of service

## Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed the second monthly challenge of correctly identifying the capitals all 50 states:

**Mrs. Manzo's Class:** Isabel A., Samantha Z., Ahmed A., and Billy D.

**Mrs. Kempf's Class:** Chandler W., Danielle E., Scott G., and Cayla E.

**Ms. Wahab's Class:** Elisa M.