

OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER
ABDAL-KHABIR
5TH GRADE



Greetings from Room 20!

Here are a few things that I would love to update all of you on:

1. Thank you for coming to Open House! I enjoyed meeting all of you so much and finally putting faces to names. There are many of you who I have seen around Nixon - but have never had one of your children - and it is so wonderful to finally get to know you! We'll talk more (obviously) at our November conference but for now, remember that a phone message is the best way to reach me - I'll get back to you as soon as I can!

Thanks, too, for helping to keep your fifth grader organized. We are well entrenched in our homework and organization routines at this point. Your child knows exactly what I expect and they are all working very hard to achieve their Courtyard Privileges!

2. Curriculum News: We've been getting a lot of work done in here! In math, we're wrapping up factors, multiples, prime and composite numbers. Look for my math facts letter coming soon! Then we'll be reviewing all of the computation algorithms -working our way up to "long" division. It should be fun!

In science, we are covering WEATHER in depth. I can't wait until they can become real forecasters!

In reading, we are still working on our independent reading routines. Students should have one book for silent reading that goes back and forth between home and school **EVERY DAY**. Your child is also responsible for getting you to sign their agenda book each night so that I know that they **READ** for at least 30 **MINUTES**!

Ask your son or daughter about our exciting new shared literature book called A Stranger Came Ashore, by Mollie Hunter. Where are the Shetland Islands? S/He should know!

We will be starting Reading Buddies with Ms. Choquette's first grade class this week. We will try to get together with them on every long Wednesday afternoon. Ask your child the name of his/her buddy on Wednesday when they get home from school - see if they can remember! We'll be working on our reading fluency when we read to the first graders and completing other projects throughout the year with them as well!

Does anyone remember the Schoolhouse Rock cartoons from the 1970's? Well, I'll be using those to help me teach grammar this year. Your fifth grader should come home singing some snappy tunes - first up, "A Noun is a Person, Place or Thing!"

In writing, we are trying to wrap up our first unit of study using the new Lucy Calkins writer's workshop program that all of Nixon school is implementing this year. Look for your child's first published piece on the bulletin board outside our room before the end of next week!

3. Honor and Respect Differences: We've been talking a lot together during Open Circle and throughout other parts of our day about how different we all are. One of my many mantras is, "If I treated you all **equally**, that wouldn't be fair...." It would not make any sense to teach every single child exactly the same thing at exactly the same time. Your fifth grader should understand this by now.

We all get what we need in terms of learning - I do my best to take each student from where they are at this particular moment and move them forward. Not all students have the same starting points, however. Using pre and post assessments in all subjects, I'll be moving the students around into groups **ALL THE TIME** so that they can get what they need!

4. Your Homework AND Conferences: Please try to remember to hand **your** homework into me before October 31. I spoke about it at Open House and you have a handout in the packet that I gave out that night. It is a letter to me about your child - for my eyes only! Include all strengths and weaknesses **AND** any goals or issues that you have for our year together.

I'll send out a conference reminder in the next few weeks. Our first Wednesday conferences start on November 7!

Thanks so much! - Amie Abdal-Khabir