

ABDAL-KHABIR CLASS NEWS!

APRIL 2008

It is **FINALLY** spring! I can't believe it. Get ready; it always feels like the time starts to **SPEED** by. The spring of fifth grade is a **VERY** busy and rich time at Nixon School. We'll send out a calendar soon listing all the fifth grade events that are coming up. Less than 50 days of school left! How did that happen?

MATH:

We are still plugging away at fractions, decimals and percents. To help, you can keep reviewing equivalents with your child. For example, s/he should know that $\frac{3}{4}$ is equivalent to $\frac{6}{8}$, $\frac{9}{12}$, $\frac{18}{24}$, $\frac{75}{100}$ AND 75% AND 0.75. They have also been taught the traditional algorithms for finding equivalents, changing improper fractions to mixed numbers and changing mixed numbers to improper. We'll be moving on to simplifying fractions next. This is a great time to review math facts with them. The more automatic their multiplication and division facts are, the more efficient they can be with finding the LCD (lowest common denominator!)

WRITING: Poetry, poetry, poetry! Have you seen what your fifth grader has written lately? **WOW!** They are truly writing using excellent imagery and word pictures. They have also been dabbling with alliteration, simile, metaphor and personification! Feel free to ask them to s-t-r-e-t-c-h themselves with their rough drafts before they hand them into me. Six gorgeous and well-written final drafts are due to me by Thursday, April 17!

Please check out our new bulletin board in the hallway outside of the library. Their "Where I'm From" poems are there, plus their colorful self-portraits from Ms. Kopman's art class AND their symbolic self-portraits that they worked on in the computer lab. Gorgeous!

2008 MCAS Testing for FIFTH Grade:

Thank you so much for helping your fifth grader perform his/her best by getting a good night sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, packing a healthy snack, bringing a water bottle **and** getting to school on time. We had 3

VERY successful days of Reading MCAS Testing. They all worked very hard, took their time and didn't give up!

Don't forget the rest of our FIFTH GRADE MCAS dates are as follows:

Math (Tuesday, 5/13, Thursday, 5/15)
Science (Monday, 5/19, Tuesday, 5/20)
SS (Thursday, 5/22, Friday, 5/23)

SOCIAL STUDIES (from Mrs. Miller)

Social Studies has been an exciting topic this month, as the students learned about the major battles in the Revolutionary War and their significance in American history. Currently we are learning about the U.S. Constitution and the framers who worked cooperatively to create it. Ask your child to tell you a little about James Madison, George Washington or Benjamin Franklin.

SCIENCE:

We are wrapping up our Chemistry unit! Our final assessment for Chemistry will be on Tuesday, April 8. Next up will be a few hands-on and FUN technology and engineering lessons before we start reviewing for the science and technology MCAS test. Your fifth grader will actually be tested on all science units and information that they learned in 3rd, 4th and this year in fifth grade. You may want to take a look at some of the sample questions for fifth grade science and see how YOU would do!

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2007/release/g5sci.pdf> (Note: this link is just to the entire 5th grade science test from last year BUT the DOE website also includes a search engine for all test questions from previous years) Check it out!

SPRING FEVER:

Fifth grade teachers are working hard not to let "Spring Fever" impact the quality of our students' work. We have been reminding them that even though we have many end of the year activities, we are expecting that they continue to put forth their very best effort in the classroom all year long. As the warm weather arrives, you can help at home by keeping homework a

priority over extra-curricular activities. Thank you in advance for your support!

THANK YOU (again):

As always, we are so appreciative of parents who donate their time to Nixon School for lunch or recess duties. We need you! If you are free any days from 1:20 until 2:05 - we'd love to have you! We can especially use your help during our recess time (fresh air! outside!) from 1:40 until 2:05. Thanks again for your help in advance!

