

Grade 5 Monthly Newsletter October 2023



Twin Ridge Elementary

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 11 & 12 - 4 Hour Late Start, Conferences
- Oct. 13 - 3 ½ Hour Early Dismissal, Conferences
- Oct. 20 - No School, Teacher Work Day
- Oct. 26 - End of Grading Quarter 1
- Oct. 27 - No School, Teacher Work Day

CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: While reading literary texts, students will determine the theme, compare and contrast characters and events, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic. Additionally, we will be working on summarizing the text. Fifth graders will continue to deepen their understanding of vocabulary & strategies for spelling when they learn several prefixes (*re*, *pre*,

post & fore) & suffixes (*ful, less, ment, ness*.) [The Module 2 Family newsletter](#) gives additional ways you can support your child's learning at home.

Writing: This month is writing, students will write a story about a character that is on a journey to discover something. Students will include literary elements as well as dialogue as they create events that unfold logically through their plot. To improve clarity in their writing, we will learn about plural and singular nouns, verb tenses, and linking, helping and action verbs.

MATH

We will begin Unit 2 this month. During this unit, students will deepen their understanding of place value by learning about powers of ten. Students will also begin working with decimals. By the end of the month, fifth graders will be adding and subtracting decimals and fractions. These iReady newsletters give additional ways that you can support your child's learning at home during the month of October: [Lesson 6](#), [Lesson 7](#), [Lesson 8](#), [Lesson 9](#).

Please continue to practice multiplication and division math facts with your child at home.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies will be taught during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

SCIENCE

During our second science unit, we will begin exploring Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems. During this unit, students will be working towards answering the driving question: How do you create a healthy and self-sustaining ecosystem? Students will learn the definitions of matter and energy to help with our understanding of food webs and food chains. We will be researching and observing crickets and anoles in our classroom!

PATHs UPDATES

Ways to Calm Down

During our PATHS time, we have created a list of ways to help us calm down. Students generated a list of ways to calm down at home as well as in the classroom. Please see the list below that students have developed as a class.

Ways to Calm Down at Home

- Read a book
- Go to your room
- Talk to someone
- Call a friend
- Play with a friend
- Deep breathing

- Stretch
- Go outside (with permission)
- Watch a funny movie
- Watch a funny television show
- Play with your pet
- Yoga/Meditation

Comfortable and Uncomfortable Feelings

In our PATHS lessons, we talk about how all feelings are natural and OK to have. Behaviors are different. Behaviors can be “OK” or “Not OK.” Children will learn about “comfortable feelings” and “uncomfortable feelings.” We avoid using the words “good” and “bad” when talking about feelings. We do not want children to think that certain feelings are “bad.” In fact, all feelings are OK to have. Whether they are comfortable (happy, calm, excited) or uncomfortable (sad, angry, disappointed), feelings give us valuable information. When we recognize our feelings, we can decide what to do about them.

The Feelings Thesaurus

Each student will receive a Feelings Thesaurus. It is a reference manual that will be used throughout the school year. In a series of lessons, we teach thesaurus skills and help children practice using the thesaurus to enrich their vocabulary. The goal of using the thesaurus is to help children become more precise in how they express themselves and also to improve their writing and communication skills.

Does talking about feelings solve problems?

Sometimes talking about feelings solves our problems, and sometimes it doesn't. Even when discussing feelings doesn't itself solve a problem, it can still help with finding a solution. Talking about feelings helps children to control themselves instead of acting impulsively. In addition, it can help them feel better when another person listens and cares. When we feel better, we can think about what to do next.

No single solution will work for every problem. We want to teach children to find different solutions for problems. However, there are some situations (failure, disappointment, grief) for which the best solution may be to talk with someone about how we feel.

Also, being able to talk about feelings can help in the later childhood and teen years. Talking frankly about feelings and problems now can help children later when they face difficult situations such as whether to use drugs, give in to peer pressure or have sex. In short, talking about feelings may not solve a problem immediately. But it can help build trusting relationships and problem-solving skills.

The Fifth Grade Team thanks you for all your support during the first month of school. Your children are off to a great start in fifth grade!