

Grade 5 Monthly Newsletter November 2023

Twin Ridge Elementary

1106 Leafy Hollow Circle
Mount Airy, MD 21771
Telephone: 240-236-2300



Alexis Anselene	240-236-2386	alexis.anselene@fcps.org
Barbara Cicmanec	240-236-2390	barbara.cicmanec@fcps.org
Flo Fox	240-236-2339	florence.fox@fcps.org
Katie Malone	240-236-2390	kathryn.malone@fcps.org
Joseph Pfeiffer	240-236-2388	joseph.pfeiffer@fcps.org

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday November 8:** Report Cards Issued
- **Wednesday, November 22 - Friday, November 24:** Thanksgiving Break, No School
- **Friday December 1** - Midterm: 2 Hour Early Dismissal

CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: In reading, students will focus on informational texts to help them answer the essential question, "How can learning about natural disasters make us safer? Students will use informational text to help support this question. We will look at narrative nonfiction, realistic fiction, and also a persuasive text to help build knowledge about natural disasters. We will also look at the cause behind natural disasters. Aside from the reading material, we will also focus on problem solving and making the right decisions. We will discuss both of these concepts and how we can relate them to our reading. To connect at home, question your students about natural disasters, let them watch the weather channel or tell them the weather each day!

Writing: In writing, students will be writing persuasive essays. As students read about natural disasters in reading, they will determine whether they would choose to rebuild their home and community or move away after a severe natural disaster. Students will identify an appropriate position on this prompt. Students will then use relevant facts and reasons to support their claim in order to write a 5 paragraph essay explaining their position.

MATH

In Math, students will continue to deepen their understanding of decimals and place value. Students will use $>$, $<$, and $=$ to compare decimals to the thousandths place. Students will use place value understanding to round decimals to the nearest hundredth, tenth and whole number. Once students have shown a deep understanding of decimals and place value, we will move into addition and subtraction of decimals. Students will add decimals to the hundredths place using a variety of strategies and will explain their reasoning used to add decimals. Students will also subtract decimals to the hundredths place using a variety of strategies and will explain their reasoning used to subtract decimals.

SOCIAL STUDIES

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

SCIENCE

We will begin wrapping up our unit on 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?

We will be moving into our third unit on Space Systems. We will discuss gravity, rotation, revolution, shadows, moon phases, stars, and constellations. As we work through the space systems unit, students will be answering the driving question: How can we better understand space systems through big ideas found in the cross-cutting concepts?

PATHs UPDATES

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.

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.

Reminder

Students are encouraged to work on Lexia (Language Arts) and I-Ready (Math) computer based assignments at home for extra practice. Thank you for encouraging your child to spend some time on these programs throughout the week! Students can access iReady and Lexia at home using this link:

<https://edu.fcps.org/tres/media>

The Fifth Grade Team thanks you for your support and involvement in your child's educational journey. We have had a great month of learning and growing and look forward to an awesome November at Twin Ridge!