



5th Grade News



January 2012

A Note to Parents...

Happy New Year!

We hope that all of you had a restful and happy Christmas. We certainly hope that the students had a restful break and come back refreshed and ready to learn. Can you believe that it is almost the end of the 2nd quarter?

January is a great time to be in 5th grade. We will be learning about many exciting things this month including. We will also have Catholic Schools' Week to look forward to at the end of the month.

**Mrs. Maschari, Ms. Partridge, Mrs. Cecutti
and Mrs. Saliba**

Language Arts



Get ready for a fantastic month for Language Arts! We will continue our study of words and the English language in a variety of ways. We will continue to learn about word parts, prefixes and suffixes through our spelling program. The students will also continue learning the 240 words all 5th graders need to know. In January, we

will commence our grammar/language boot camp where we will cover several of the areas where we see a need for review or refresher. Additionally, students will begin learning about the four different types of sentences, sentence structure and how to apply these valuable lessons and skills to their writing.

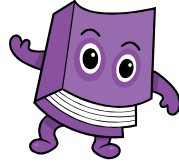
The students will also be reflecting on their individual and group experiences at JA Biztown in an essay format. Before leaving for Christmas break, the students brainstormed on everything that they learned on economics and at JA Biztown. Many of them realized how hard their parents worked every day and lamented that their lunch time had to include a visit to the bank where there was a line! It was an eye-opening experience for the students, and I know that they are excited to write about it.

In reading news, we are currently reading *City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau. The students are enjoying reading this fantastic science fiction story about two children who live underground. This book is rich in setting details and characterization. It provides a lot of opportunity for discussion and for critical thought. Students write thoughts and impressions about the book each day in their light bulb journals.

Students who have already read *City of Ember* have the opportunity to either re-read the book or to move onto the other books of Ember. There are four in all.



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Accelerated Reading

As the quarter comes to an end, students should be meeting or surpassing their quarterly goals for the AR program. These goals are as follows:

- meet the point total assigned to each student based on his or her reading level (the goals are individualized)
- read one non-fiction book each month
- continue to read a wide variety of genres off of the genre check-list

These requirements are standards-based and will help your child to become an even better reader. Now the important question...

How can you check your child's progress in the AR program?

--In 5th grade, it is very important to monitor your child's reading. The first thing that you can do is ensure that your child is reading at least 30 minutes a night. A good rule of thumb is that your child should finish a book every one to two weeks, depending on length. If you see that your child is finishing books at this pace, you can be sure that he or she is progressing towards the provided goal.

--Check your child's AR folder. At the top of the first page, you should find a sticker with your child's point goal on it. Your child records points every time an AR test is taken. Therefore, by adding up the points, you can see how close your child is to

meeting his or her individualized goal. You can also make sure that your child is reading different kinds of books, a non-fiction selection each month and is filling out the log sheet.

--Check out Home Connect! This is an easy way to find out how your child is doing with both reading and AR related vocabulary.

Thank you for your continued support of your child and the AR program!

Book Review of the Month



Written by Katherine Marsh
Book Review by Reagan Bramlish

The Night Tourist is an amazing book! If you like ghosts, mystery and non-stop action, this is a great book for you!

The Night Tourist will leave you dangling on the edge of your seat. When the main character, Jack, ventures into the underworld with his ghostly friend Eurie, the problems they face are ceaseless. They run into angry ghosts who will stop at nothing to kill Jack. Will Jack be able to get back to the real world? Alive?! Read the book to find out. If you like *The Night Tourist*, you can read the second book, *The Twilight Prisoner*.

**Thank you, Reagan, for such a great book review! If you have read this newsletter,



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please let Mrs. Maschari know the title of the Book of the Month for a special treat**

Science



Much to the students' disappointment, DARE has come to an end. The students received specially designed DARE t-shirts to celebrate their growing understanding of decision-making, drugs, alcohol and making good choices. Congratulations to all students! I know that they are looking forward to learning more from Officer McKenna in 7th grade.

In science, we are continuing learning about outer space! Students are continuing to review the motion of the earth and how that motion impacts us. They learned that rotation causes day and night and that the seasons are caused by both the tilt and revolution of the Earth around the sun.

We will also be learning about the moon and other planets!

Social Studies



The 5th Graders did a great job working as citizens in the community at JA Biztown! Now that we have completed our economics unit, we are beginning to study U.S. History with an exploration unit that

will cover the discovery of America. As a part of this unit, students will be responsible for writing in their journals from the viewpoint of an European explorer, new to the Americas. These writings should describe their feelings and experiences they had as if they had been the actual explorer. After our exploration unit, we will continue the study of U.S. history focusing on colonization. I am looking forward to these units, as it will provide opportunities for meeting the different learning styles of students with a variety of projects.

Religion



In Religion, the 5th Graders worked very hard on preparing and performing skits that reflected the real meaning of Christmas. We created props and some students even brought in costumes! I was very impressed with the actors and actresses in my 5th Grade classes. We have just begun a unit on the Liturgical Year. The students have chosen a season on the Liturgical calendar and will be writing poetry that describes what they have learned about that particular season. Later this month, we will be studying about the life of Saint Brigid in order to prepare for the celebration of her feast day, February 1st.

Math



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The fifth grade students just went on a fabulous trip to JA Biztown, where they were able to use a checkbook, keep a balance, and purchase items with the money they made at their jobs. In the next few weeks as we wrap up Quarter Two, we will be covering a short unit in measurement. Some of the topics we will be covering within measurement include making conversions within the same system (inches to feet, feet to yards, etc.), determining the difference between surface area and volume, linear units, square units, and cubic units, estimating and measuring angles, and area and perimeter of rectangles and parallelograms.

Accelerated Math has been going well! Students are doing a nice job of scanning 2 times a week as well as working on their math facts for 20 minutes each week.



Did you know....?

A special thank-you...



Every day we spend with your child is a gift. Their creativity, kindness, excitement and joy are all blessings to each of us. Additionally, we would like to thank anyone who gave a card, a gift, a kind word or donated to the Home and School Gifts of Gratitude Fund. It is truly appreciated.

- Please make sure that your child has all of the necessary supplies for the school day! Some students need refills of Post-it Notes, pencils, loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, etc. Thank you!
- We are so excited that so many students received e-readers and books for Christmas! Thank you for giving your child the gift of reading. In terms of e-readers, we welcome them in the classroom if they are used with care and responsibility. We have reviewed our classroom policies with the students regarding these devices. Please let us know if you have any questions!

A glimpse of JA Biz Town...



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All of the townspeople gather for a picture at City Hall.



Annie stops for a break outside the Lemonade Stand.



Calvin helps Rob with his banking needs.



Our town mayor, Jack, takes care of business with Ryan and Mason.



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Liam films Elizabeth and Jack at the TV station.



The radio staff played today's greatest hits and aired business advertisements.



Elisa, Nicole, Adam and Jack take a quick break.



The Café staff was a big hit with the townspeople! Everyone loved the popcorn and soda.



Sam and Andrew love BizTown!



The Blue Jackets Shop was a fun place to work for Andrew, Adam, Nicole and Justin.



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