

5th - Eileen and Sonya - Week 13 Post

Eileen Walker • Friday, Dec 4 at 5:50 PM • **5th Grade**

Dear 5th grade families,

We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Thanksgiving break. It was so nice to have a full week off to rest and recharge. We are now in the home stretch before winter break, and Sonya and I look forward to seeing many students in person next week. In order for all students and staff to get tested and to take into account the 5-10 day incubation period for COVID-19, remote learning will be extended through Tuesday. Please see Angela's ParentSquare post for more information: **Distance Learning Extended Through Tuesday, Dec. 8. That means that we will see students on campus again Wednesday, 12/9.**

What's going on in the classroom:

Math/Science:

Understanding equivalency is critical to adding and subtracting fractions. We want students to have many meanings come to mind when they see a fraction. For $\frac{1}{4}$, for example, a student might think of $\frac{1}{4}$, \$.25, 0.25, half of $\frac{1}{2}$, double $\frac{1}{8}$, 25%, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour, 15 minutes out of 60 minutes, etc. Students will learn several models to help them see these equivalent connections. This week students practiced utilizing the money model and next week they will focus on the clock model before comparing the two models to decide what works best for their own learning. We will also practice the more standard algorithm throughout the unit. Students have a bright pink reference sheet in the front of their math binders to support them when working independently on each of the models.

Humanities:

- Next week the students will start new reading and social studies units. Both units will focus on Native Americans. The classes will be learning about certain Native American cultures and thinking about Native Americans' place in our country's, and continent's, history.
- They will begin reading *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich. Please read this **brief synopsis** from goodreads.com.
 - Because we are starting a new text, **students do NOT have a response to reading assignment due as usual.** Those assignments will pick up next week.
 - Students that are staying remote picked up their copies of *The Birchbark House* on November 13th. Students returning to campus will receive their copies on Wednesday or Thursday.
- In social studies, the classes will read a series of Algonquian myths and legends over the next two weeks.
 - To prepare, they participated in a lesson exploring stereotypes, as Native Americans are a group that is often stereotyped in our society. The students worked in small groups exploring various prompts and shared their thinking on these two Jamboards: **Virtual Pups** and **Extremely Fancy Bowls of Soup**.
- Next week, the students will also take a **spelling inventory**, which I will use to direct our whole-group and small-group spelling curriculum in the new year.

Thank you for reading this week's post, and enjoy the weekend.

Warmly,

Eileen and Sonya