

5th grade Weekly News

Sonya Coles • about 2 months ago • Friday, Jan 22 at 5:23 PM • **5th Grade**

Dear 5th-grade families,

It was a new week at Park Day School and a new week for our country. It was great to see many of our 5th graders on campus and to recognize the inauguration of our nation's 46th president (and Oakland-born Vice President!). Our school acknowledged the event with a k-8 assembly where students shared their hopes and dreams for the new administration and for Kamala Harris, specifically.

Things to be aware of:

- Rain is forecasted for the upcoming week, so please make sure that kids are dressed accordingly.
- Students should bring all of their learning materials to school each day, including their Spanish notebook, math Home Connections and Student Book, ELA notebook, math and ELA binders, colored pencils, and markers.
- Eileen and I noticed that some students who were supposed to be joining us only in person ended up on Zoom one or two days this week. We are doing a lot to prepare for distance and on-campus learners, and it is quite difficult to do so effectively when the groups are changed so frequently. As Karen shared in her ParentSquare post last week, the @home option is not something that can be utilized on a day to day basis. Thank you for understanding.

What's going on in the classroom:

Envisioning Justice Biographies: The students began working on their Envisioning Justice Biographies on Tuesday. Please look over **this list**

showing which changemaker each student chose, **this document** outlining the assignment, and **this list** containing students' presentation dates. In addition to these biographies, the kids will be exploring the term justice in depth next week. They will contribute to a class slide show in which each student determines what justice means to them, generates examples of just and unjust situations, and chooses images that best represent justice. After that, we will come together to determine a collective understanding of justice.

Humanities:

Writing Workshop: The students built on their study of parts of speech in preparation for the List poem. Each morning, they diagrammed a sentence to determine nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. On Tuesday and Wednesday, they analyzed five model student List poems to see what information the poems contain and how they are structured. Later on in the week, each student began filling out a brainstorm chart containing nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs related to their magazine topic. They will begin drafting their List poems next week!

Reading Workshop: On Monday and Tuesday, the classes will begin the new class novel: *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis. We will listen to and discuss the first 4 chapters in class over the course of the week, so there will not be a new response to reading assignment until the first week of February. *Elijah of Buxton* dovetails nicely with our ongoing investigation of justice and our upcoming study of slavery and the Underground Railroad.

Below is a brief synopsis of the book:

- You will be reading a story that is told by a funny, trouble-loving, and brave eleven-year-old boy named Elijah. Elijah lived during the 1850s just before the Civil War. He was the first free baby born in the town of Buxton, Canada on the Elgin Settlement. Elijah's parents, and all the other grown-ups in the town, had escaped slavery and come to Canada on the Underground Railroad.

Math:

This week students took the last checkpoint of the current chapter.

Students overall did very well on the checkpoint and we will review the checkpoints together Monday/Tuesday in class. Throughout next week students will have opportunities to review and practice the concepts from this unit ahead of the Unit Assessment on Friday. If you feel your student may need additional time to complete the assessment please reach out so accommodations can be made. Students played several partner and class math games this week including Bagel, Pico Fermi and Coordinate Battleship. Games are a great way to practice math skills in a fun and interactive way. If you are in search of games that might be a good fit I am happy to make recommendations!

Have a great weekend,

Sonya and Eileen