

Here's what's happening in Room 14!

# September 2016

Schedule at a Glance:

Here is what we have been learning about

## Math

We are working on a unit on adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators and mixed numbers. Watch for family letters to explain content and problem solving strategies. You can find many resources on the links on my website.

[www.kahnacademy.org](http://www.kahnacademy.org) also has a lot of quick and informative hints and lessons.



## Reading

We have been reading fiction and non-fiction texts looking at text features, and creating a positive learning community as we work in partnerships. We have learned new vocabulary from the books we are reading and students are having fun incorporating those words into their daily lives.

## Independent Reading

Students are reading books that are just right for their individual level and working toward reading goals. They should be reading at least 30 minutes per night, and pass an AR test with an 80% or better by Friday morning, each week.

## Writing

We have been studying different styles texts to get ideas for writing, such as twisted fairy tales, poetry, narrative and expository. Students will set goals for themselves as writers and use peer coaching to improve their writing.

## Science

This trimester we are studying variables, and investigating swingers (pendulums) and lifeboats. We will learn

about why things sink or float.

## Social Studies

We completed our unit about the constitution. We learned about the parts of the constitution, listened to some fun songs about the preamble, constitution and Bill of Rights, and made posters illustrating each amendment.

## Book Orders

Scholastic offers books at great rates. You can order online using the code JD8YV, or you can send a check made out to Scholastic Book Clubs; no cash please. The next order is due 10/6 and students can get a free book with a \$10 purchase.

- 9/29 Parent Info and Curriculum Night 6:00
- 9/30 Crazy Hair School Spirit Day
- 9/30 SBA reports sent home
- 10/4 HIV/AIDS Education Preview 7:00 pm TLC
- 10/6 Book orders due
- 10/10 Mixed Bag fundraiser orders due
- 10/13 Picture Day
- 10/14 Walkathon
- 11/16-22 Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Human Growth and Development Preview

All 5<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in a week-long unit on Human Growth and Development. Topics include Puberty, HIV/AIDS and Personal Safety. There will be a parent preview night on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00PM at the Teaching and Learning Center located on the Explorer Middle School Campus. The school district offers parents an opportunity to preview the materials covered in the unit. Because the state requires instruction on these topics, parents are required to preview the material if they are considering withdrawing their child from the curriculum. Human Growth and Development will take place in December.



## Routines and Organization

Students write assignments and upcoming events in their planners each day, and bring home important papers in their folders. They are expected to find a place where they can concentrate to complete their daily homework. Each week students turn in their completed planner including information about their behavior and a reading log. They should keep all their papers in their binder until the end of the trimester. Best work and assessments will be kept in their portfolios in the classroom. Students will share their best work with you at the parent teacher conference, as well as when they bring home each report card.

# Welcome



## Testing

Students have taken 2 computer adaptive tests in September, STAR reading and math. These tests give us information about their fluency and comprehension. Students will be retested several times throughout the year to demonstrate their progress.

## 5th grade End of Year Party

Please let me know if you are interested in planning the fifth grade party at the end of the year. In the past we attended a Mariner game and last year we went to the Boys and Girls Club for fun and games. Every year the kids have a blast! You also can help raise money for the party by purchasing items from the mixed bag fundraiser. Orders are due October 10th. The classroom that has the most sales will win a pizza party!



## Parent Info Night

Come learn about the curriculum and classroom routines. You will have a chance ask questions and check out your child's classroom this Thursday, September 29th. We will kick off the evening in the gym for introductions, then head to your child's classroom for curriculum information. Two sessions are available for parents with multiple kids at Picnic Point.

## Volunteers

I appreciate all of you who have signed up to volunteer. If you have expressed interest in helping in the classroom, I will be in touch with you very soon. I'm looking forward to working with each of you! The PTA is also looking for volunteers to teach Art with our wonderful Art Docents.



## Book It

Book It is a reading incentive program for students that takes place October through March. Students are encouraged to read at least 4 novels at their level each month. If they turn in their reading log showing they have completed their goal, they get a certificate and a coupon for a free personal pizza from Pizza Hut. Happy Reading!



Thank-you to all of you for signing up for Class Dojo. It is a great management tool for tracking behavior, and assignments as well as communicating about your child's progress.



Thanks so much to those of you who have sent in box tops! Each box top earns 10 cents, which goes toward purchasing classroom materials. Keep them coming! :)

## Walk - A -Thon

The Walk-a-thon will be held on Friday, October 14th from 10:30-11:30am. We need as many parent volunteers as possible to help make our fundraiser a success. The money from the Walk-a-thon is used to pay for field trips. We are hoping to have 3 volunteers from each class.

We need parents to tally individual student laps so they can take their lap sheet home and collect their pledges.

If you are able and willing to help with this fun event, please email Leslie Dodson at [dodsonlg@mukilteo.wednet.edu](mailto:dodsonlg@mukilteo.wednet.edu).

Thanks so much for your support!



## Conferences

Parent teacher conferences will be November 16th-22nd and are a great opportunity to talk about your child's progress. Since we only have conferences once a year, I hope you can make time in your busy day to attend. Students are welcome to participate in the conference. Many parents have already signed up for their desired time. I will send home a schedule soon for you to select your first and second choice time if you haven't already done so.