

Dear Room 19 Families,

I hope you had a fantastic weekend enjoying the warm weather!

Thank you for bringing your child to reading assessments this past week! It is invaluable one-on-one time to meet with each student to get a deeper understanding of their reading, and a chance to check-in with them about how the start to 5th grade is going. I look forward to sharing my insights and how we are personalizing instruction during our goal-setting conferences this fall.

This week's email is a little bit lengthy with information regarding the return of Scholars Speak, Social Studies, and Math assessments, please take the time to read all the way to the bottom (Thank you!). Below, please find some reminders and updates for the upcoming week, as well as a brief summary of what we are working on in class.

Information and Updates:

- **Scholastic Book Orders-** Please be on the lookout for our first Scholastic book order in the white envelope on Tuesday! When you purchase books through our Scholastic account, we receive money towards classroom books! I will place our first order this Friday.
- **PTA** – A big thank you to the families that have donated so far! I made my donation on Friday. You still have a few more weeks to join the PTA and donate to our amazing school! And don't forget...each classroom that has at least 90% participation will receive a popsicle party and \$100 towards school supplies. Our class is at currently at 42% participation.
 - Here's how to donate:
 - Click [here](#) to donate online with a credit card
 - Click [here](#) for more information on the membership drive

Reminders for this Week:

- **Monday- (12:40 Dismissal)**
 - We are on minimum day schedule, remember to pack a large snack.
 - We have P.E.
 - It is International Dot Day! Take a minute to celebrate your creativity and individuality!
- **Tuesday-**
 - We have Science Lab with Mrs. Liu.

- **Wednesday- No School**
- **Thursday-**
 - We have music. Remember to bring your instrument.
 - We have P.E.
- **Friday-**
 - We have art class.
 - Wordly Wise Lesson 2 test and workbook turn-in.

What We're Working on This Week:

- **Reading & Writing-**
 - **Scholars Speak-** Graded rubrics were sent home on Friday. Please take time to read over the comments that I left. Students were instructed to look at their graded rubric and pick 1-2 areas that they would like to focus on improving for their next presentation. In the future, Scholars Speak assignments will be at-home projects with a week's notice to complete. I will let you know when the next one is coming.
 - We are continuing to read *Shiloh*, and identify different Notice & Note signposts. This week there will be a big emphasis on *writing well* about what we have read. We will also pay close attention to character traits, actions, and inner thinking/dialogue.
 - We will focus on completing our first Storyworks (more advanced and in-depth version of Scholastic News).
 - We will continue to collect "seed" ideas and practice quick writes, which will later grow into longer narrative stories.
- **Math-**
 - **Graded Tests Returned-**Students completed their first 5th grade math test. Please look for the graded rubric and test to come home tomorrow. The rubric is broken up into Mathematical Practices on the top, and on the bottom a "1-2-3-4" scale for each problem on the test (aligned to the specific standards). The rubric goes to a "4" because of the math program's grading scale, please note that a "4" would be above and beyond, and we are still using a "1-2-3" grading scale in 5th grade. The goal is for students to be in the "3" section, showing full understanding of the concepts, but as we are in the beginning of the year, some students are making progress, but have not achieved full mastery of the concepts "yet." Please keep in mind that we will be working on these concepts all year.

- **Homework-** Please check that your child is completing all math homework every night, including assignments on TenMarks, and is putting forth best effort. It is expected that students will find some homework problems to be "hard," and I do not expect that students will always use the correct procedures or arrive at the correct answers. However, the deep thinking and struggle of tackling these harder problems leads to learning (Growth Mindset!), so I want students to simply try their best on the harder problems. We review the previous night's homework in class every day and address any concepts that are unclear.
- **This Week-**This week we will focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, of decimal numbers. It is critical that students have mastered their basic math facts in order to be most successful- make sure to practice on XtraMath (account information sent home last Tuesday). Don't forget to check-out the resources on the math page of our class website.
- **Social Studies-** A note from Mrs. Stelter: Students will receive their graded note packets and tests back tomorrow. I ask students to show their graded tests and packets to their parents, but I do not require a parent signature. We have now started our new unit on the Pre-Columbian Era. Last week, we learned several theories about how the First Americans arrived on the North American and South American continents. We traced the development of early Americans from being hunter-gatherers to living in groups with distinct cultures. This week, we will look at four ancient American civilizations: the Olmec, Maya, MoundBuilders, and Ancient Puebloans.
- **Science-** Students are completing research for their arctic plant project. Next, we will begin the "Explain" part of our 5E- working on the STEMscope packet. Our test and note collection is tentatively scheduled for September 27th, and will be completed whole class so that students know how to prepare in the future.
- **Art-** A note from Mr. Ahrens: The past two weeks in 5th grade art classes, students were creating original artwork from their "thumbnail sketches" representing their favorite things. While they are creating ideas for a personal symbol or icon, they are also now incorporating those ideas into the icons of their chosen business partners for their new business, starting a design, illustration and graphics studio! The creativity is amazing and the "fun" level is pretty high too! Next week they will finalize the black and white designs and begin a color rough stage where students will begin to consider color in their final logos.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.