

# The SCOOP



The Newsletter from Creek View Elementary's Fifth Grade Team

BE "IN THE KNOW" OF ALL 5TH GRADE HAPPENINGS, EVENTS AND NEWS

Volume 9 Issue 5; December, 2009

THANKS TO ALL YOU TO ALL FIFTH GRADER'S WHO CONTRIBUTED CANS FOR THE FOOD DRIVE!!

**D**ecember promises to be a hectic and exciting month of learning and fun. With the end of semester assessments and holiday hubbub, it is bound to be a whirlwind of activity.

We are so proud of all our fifth graders who worked hard to collect cans from their own pantries, from neighbors and relatives, and by buying them! They are so appreciated by families in need.

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers with our Landforms Science Lab in November! The children are getting excellent hands on experience on how wind, water, earthquakes, and volcanoes change our Earth's surface. It's awesome!

**With Atlanta's fluctuating weather, we'd like to remind you to be sure students are properly dressed. Cold mornings and warmer afternoons require layers. Students must have a coat to participate in outdoor recess on cold days.**

The fifth grade holiday parties are scheduled for December 18, from 11:30 to 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the social coordinator for your child's class. If you are attending the parties, and plan to take your child home early, please be sure to complete the check out form *before* coming to the classroom. **Without a pass from the office, we will not be able to release students from the room.** We appreciate your support in our efforts to maintain student safety.

First semester Cumulative Assessments in Language Arts, Math, and Science will be given prior to the holiday break. Testing dates vary but children should not need to study. Material tested matches the Standards students have been working on since August. We encourage all students to do their best as it will be a reflection on how well they are preparing for the CRCT.

Congratulations in advance to all students participating in winter band and orchestra concerts! The Fall Show Choir performance was tremendous! We have quite a talented group of students.

**Be aware that two (2) behavior related N's, or one (1) behavior related U on report cards, or a behavior related office referral WITH consequences, within the nine weeks prior to the event, will result in the loss of field trip privileges and may effect students' ability to participate in other activities. Also remember that detention is a consequence for a 'U' in behavior in conduct folders.** We thank you as you continue to support our lessons of respect and responsibility.

Please see the next page for important websites! These allow your child to take Practice CRCT tests and access text books and tutorials on-line. Please let us know if your child is having trouble logging on to any of these sites.

As always, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or compliments.

*Eric Adkins, Helaine Becker,  
Kathy McLaughlin, Pam Mouchaham,  
Kim O'Brien, Ian Schonberg,  
Alison Snow, and Michael Vorick,*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- "Cyber Bullying" Assembly 12/3
- RETURN WEBB BRIDGE FORM BY 12/7
- Winter Orchestra Concert 12/7 6:30
- Winter Band Concert 12/15 6:30
- Geography Bee 12/16 in the Media Center
- CRCT Checkpoints to be given this month in the Computer Lab
- Holiday Party 12/18 11:30-12:30
- 12/21 - 1/4: Winter Break

# IMPORTANT WEBSITES

Reading and Language Arts – [www.harcourtschool.com](http://www.harcourtschool.com) <<http://www.harcourtschool.com/>> – password is Farr

Science – <http://www.hspscience.com/> – Select Georgia, then Go, and then select a grade level.

Social Studies – <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/socsci/ga/>

CRCT online: [www.georgiaoas.org](http://www.georgiaoas.org)

Login is ten digit id # beginning with 1100----- (found in agenda)

Password – first name, last name – lower case, no spaces Example: johnsmith

Directions for Accessing the Math Textbook Website:

1. Go to [www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)
2. Type in username: first and last name – lowercase, no spaces. Example: johnsmith
3. Type in password: it is their ten digit student id # starting with 1100 (found in agenda)

Directions for Accessing the Reading Textbook Website:

1. Go to [www.harcourtschool.com](http://www.harcourtschool.com)
2. Click on the Learning Site
3. Click on Reading
4. Click on the button for Trophies
5. The password is (Farr) if needed. 3. Click on Language Arts
4. Click on the first set of books

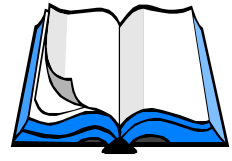
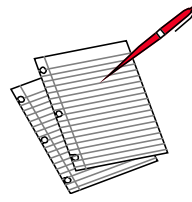
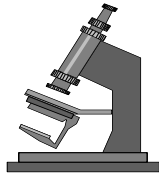
Language Arts

1. Go to [www.harcourtschool.com](http://www.harcourtschool.com)
2. Click on the Learning Site
3. Click on Language Arts
4. Click on the first set of books
5. The password is (Farr) if needed.
6. Complete the other information and click on the picture at the bottom (if needed)
7. Click on the appropriate grade level

**Accessing the Social Studies:**

1. Go to [www.eduplace.com/eservices](http://www.eduplace.com/eservices)
2. Please use the chart below to enter the correct username and password for your grade level.

Grade Level	Book Title	Username	Password
1	Our Country	grade1ourcountry	123456
2	Our State	grade2ourstate	123456
3	Our Democracy	grade3ourdemocracy	123456
4	Early Years	grade4earlyyears	123456
5	Civil War to Today	grade5earlyyears	123456



## CURRICULUM NEWS

# SOCIAL STUDIES

We now direct our attention to how the United States was involved in World War I and the political and social developments after the war. Students will understand what ultimately led the U.S. to join the fight against Germany, describe the cultural developments and individual contributions in the 1920s, and will understand how a citizen's rights are protected under the U.S. Constitution. Students will also use this era to study geographic patterns of economic activities in the U.S., and will describe how consumers and businesses interact in the United States economy across time. When this unit is complete, students will have studied concepts that demonstrate that war comes at a great cost to societies, individuals develop and change societies, and for a democracy to endure, all of its citizens should have political, social, and economic rights and responsibilities.

# SCIENCE

## Landforms

Through hands-on experiments and model making, children will be able to identify features of the earth that were caused by constructive and destructive processes. Mountain making, volcanoes, earthquakes, the shifting and moving of tectonic plates and the process of weathering will all be examined in meaningful ways. The landforms of Georgia will be incorporated into the lessons. Ways humans can measure and control the ever changing Earth's crust will also be learned. Ask your child ways in which he or she is identifying with our changing planet!

# LANGUAGE ARTS

In addition to the specifics of your child's Language Arts class, all teachers ask you to encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes each night.

In the third language arts unit entitled "Change", students will explore many facts of the concept of change. What important changes did people make throughout the years? They will read informational text to identify these individuals and to answer this question. Students will use their knowledge of informational text features and examine why these features are important. Students will recall important narrative elements in the story such as the setting, plot, characters, conflict, or significance of events. The students will write an original short story that takes them through the writing process. Emphasis will be on the revision step with rearranging sentence parts and making word substitutions. Students will be able to distinguish the revision step from the editing step of the writing process.

Students will continue to work on grammar, spelling and vocabulary skills.

# MATH

## HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

You can help with homework and encourage sound mathematical habits as your child studies this unit by asking questions such as: What is a reasonable estimate for the answer? Or, *about* how large will the sum (difference, product, or quotient) be? • How do these decimals compare to fractions? • What strategies or algorithms would help you solve this problem? • Why are percents useful in this problem? In your child's notebook, you can find worked-out examples from problems done in class, notes on the mathematics of the unit, and descriptions of the vocabulary words.

Please continue to work on basic math facts with your child.

## **Mrs. McLaughlin/Mr. Adkins/Mrs. OBrien/Mr. Vorick/Mrs. Snow/Mr. Schonberg/Mrs. Arnold/Mrs. Goldsmith**

In the next unit, Unit 4: Parts of Wholes: Fractions, Decimals, and Percents, students will further develop ideas about the meaning of fractions and learn to use fractions interchangeably with decimals. Students will also model and compute multiplication and division of fractions and estimate products and quotients involving fractions. The students will also enjoy exploring and modeling percents and applying those percents to circle graphs.

## **Ms. Becker**

The final section of our current unit focuses on evaluating algebraic expressions and solving one- and two-step algebraic equations. Students will be required to use all skills developed thus far this year in order to manipulate numbers and variables. This is a great time of year to take students shopping and have them use their newly acquired skills with computing tax and discount rates and prices. There will be a final unit test prior to the winter break.