

# GRESHAW GAZETTE



Friday Newsletter  
mgreshaw@stpaul-school.org

September 30, 2011



I try to get newsletters out every other Friday. Sometimes it turns out to be just once a month, but please feel free to always be in contact with me via email

(mgreshaw@stpaul-school.org). When newsletters come home, they will be on a colored piece of paper and will be in your child's take home folder. I also post the newsletters online. Check out our school's website! Please make sure to look for these!

I am looking forward to an exciting year. The fifth graders will be learning a lot of new material, exploring new ideas, and participating in fun activities. I look forward to getting to know each of them on a personal level.

## Language Arts

Language Arts consists of Word Wisdom (Spelling & Vocabulary), Grammar, Reading, and Writing. This group of subjects generally takes up our entire morning. Word Wisdom is a new subject for the students this year and a new book for me as well. We will be working on it together for the majority of the year. The themes are broken down in 3 units a piece and 10 words per unit. Our current theme is Food. The first unit discusses using context clues to find out what words mean, the second unit looks at Latin Roots, and the third unit discusses reference skills. Our spelling words for the week will come from the Word Wisdom book.



There will be 10 words a week for 3 weeks and then the fourth week will have 30 words as a review. More often than not, there will be "Buzz Words" (words with definitions) that your child may study

throughout the week for extra credit on their spelling test. A handwritten list will come home in your child's binder every Monday. They should study the spelling of these words and my hope is that they will try to write the words in

cursive. It is optional; however, they will receive extra credit if they write it in cursive. While we do work with the words throughout the week, the majority of the study time for the spelling words should be done at home. Reading and Writing- This year the students will be involved with Reading and Writing Workshops. In the workshop, students participate in three areas: a mini-lesson led by me, an independent writing and reading time, and sharing/discussion time. In the workshop strategy, students hold most of the decision-making power regarding the material they will read or write about, and the responses to that reading or writing. I act more of a coach or facilitator during workshop time by conferencing with individuals about what they are reading and writing. I will also use the workshop time as an opportunity to teach the whole class on comprehension strategies.

## Math

Students will begin with a review place value. We will dive right into place value of decimals. Along with regular multiplication and division of numbers, we will also work with decimals. We then move on to Fractions. We will also be working on measurement, area/volume, angles/geometry, and graphing/averages.

## Science

We have a fairly new Science curriculum this year. We are starting with Earth Science and more specifically the planets in our Solar System. Other material you can expect to have covered in science is the human body, heredity, and motion. We are fortunate enough to



be using the Discovery Education Techbooks this year. If you haven't checked out the site yet, you should. It's really neat. Students will be coming home with usernames and passwords soon.

## Social Studies

This year the students will be focusing their studies on the Western Hemisphere. We will talk about the geography, the cultures, the governments, and the economy.

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## Religion

The focus in grade 5 is the Sacraments. We will begin talking about God's creation and what a wonderful gift it is! A big part of 5<sup>th</sup> grade is also Family Life. We will begin to discuss family life in February/March.

## Just to Add...

Thank you so much for all your understanding and patience during my absence. I really appreciate it. The students and I are still in the process of getting to know each other and I am still reminding them of what is expected in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Interims** Interims are scheduled to come home on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to my absence, I will not be sending grades home at this time. We are also in the process of learning how to import grades onto Infinite Campus. Please know that I will get in touch with you via email or telephone if I have any concerns regarding your child's education.

**Field Trip** We will be taking our first field trip to ArtPrize on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our scheduled time to depart is 9:00am and we plan to return at 1:30pm. Please make sure your child chooses weather appropriate shoes and coat. They also will need their backpack to carry a brown bag lunch (everything should be disposable). The parents that will be joining us on this field trip are: Mr. Trudeau, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Malson, and Mr. Daum. Parents attending, please remember you will need a brown bag lunch as well!

**Donations** We've had so many wonderful donations of Kleenex and hand sanitizer. Thank you so much. Some other things that the students have noticed that we could use are: Clorox wipes and Disinfectant Spray for desks, decks of cards, old games for indoor recess and pencils. I'm trying to keep my library updated and any gently used books that you may want to donate would be greatly appreciated as well. (Looking for books at a 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade reading level) Thank you so much for all your help!

**Mystery Readers.** In 5<sup>th</sup> grade we do something called "Mystery Readers". Please see my website for links for

more information. The kids in the past have loved it. Let me know if you want to sign up by calling or emailing me.

Thanks!

Do you have an **interesting job or hobby**? Would you like to **share it with the class**? If you are interested in teaching 20 wonderful students a creative craft or something interesting about your job, let me know.



## Dates to Remember:

October 3: Field Trip; ArtPrize

October 4: Picture Day! Dress Up Clothes

October 5: Social Studies Ch. 1 Test

October 7: Half Day