

December 6, 2016

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

It's December and there is much excitement in our classroom. I really appreciate the enthusiasm of this group and their general embrace of learning. We've been working extra hard in both Social Studies and Science to not only learn the content but to also practice some general study tips and skills that will hopefully stick beyond the current chapter. Ask your student about www.studystack.com which Miss Washburn and I have demonstrated every day in this Social Studies chapter in preparation for the test this Friday, December 9.

Along with excitement, there have been some growing pains. Fifth graders have been working on the Christmas Eve Memory work for FIVE weeks now. I know it is a lot to manage, but it is very important. The memory work is all the songs for Christmas Eve and we want them to feel confident and sing boldly as they lead worship. If you haven't seen a pink memory sheet, please ask.

Other growing pains have been with associated with turning in quality homework on time. I certainly understand that it's easy to be distracted with all the extras of the season, but students must stay on top of academics. I had a specific conversation with basketball players to remind them that we are student-athletes and that the student part comes before the athlete part. I absolutely love seeing the kids play sports, and especially basketball, but kids who do not complete homework will not represent our school. With your continued support, I am hopeful that this will not be a problem but wanted you to have an awareness of the policy.

Finally, we have had an increase in tardy slips recently. I realize that weather can impact travel times so I appreciate your efforts to be on time. Students may wait in the atrium starting at 7:45, classrooms open at 8:00 and we start right at 8:15 so late-comers start the day "behind" which is never a good feeling. Now with daily rehearsals for Christmas Eve, we really need every minute.

Thanks for all you do to support your student and our learning.

Together in Christ,

Mrs. Massmann

www.allthingsgrade5.weebly.com