



Mrs. Hartz's 5th Grade Class

Weekly Updates

March 11, 2020

Important Notes and Reminders

Spring break is almost here, and we are wrapping some things up before our time away from school. The kids are turning in their argumentative essays this week, and we are finishing our reading and math units as well. Last week we started a new social studies simulation to understand why people were motivated to explore and come to the new world. The kids have been placed in colonies and are working together to "earn" wealth units to help their colony successfully establish themselves in the "New World." If this has not been a topic of discussion at your house, you could ask your child what their motivation is for exploring, and what they have named their colony, what their flag looks like, etc.. They are having such a ball with this, and so am I!

The deadline to [register for the school district's Summer Exploration Experience](#) for students entering first through sixth grade is this Thursday, March 12. The deadline for Adventure Club's before and after the program is May 15. The Summer Exploration Experience is Webster Groves School District's all new summer program, offered tuition-free to all district students who will be entering 1st through 6th grade in the 2020-21 school year. Students will enjoy 24 days of hands-on/project-based learning. Students will have a voice in the direction of their learning. Children will drive their own personalized final project, reflecting on their interest in a topic. The program will be taught by certified staff who are trained in project-based learning.

Dates: June 1 - July 2

Time: 8:30 - 11:30 each day

Location: Steger Sixth Grade Center/Givens School

For more information, contact Tom Havrilka at havrilka.tom@wgmail.org.

Thank you to all of you who have already turned in Steger forms. If you need an additional copy, please let me know. Steger dates to remember are as follows:

- **Elective Enrollment Forms are due tomorrow, March 12**
- Bus Transportation Forms due to Steger Sixth Grade Center by April 3
- Teams are announced in the middle of April
- "Meet the Teacher" is on May 4-5 (date depends upon the team)

The Peter Lerangis author's visit for this week has been cancelled because of the virus scare. Mrs. Kanaan does not think that we will be able to reschedule. She is refunding students' money this week as she sees students.

This year's Avery Night at the Ballpark will be Wednesday, April 8. Tickets are \$18 (\$44 face value). Don't miss out on a great evening at the ballgame! Spotlight Singers will perform "Star Spangled Banner" before the start of the game. Checks preferred (made out to Avery Elementary). Please return your payment (check or cash) and this [reservation form](#) to Mrs. Mosley in the music room ASAP. Tickets will be offered until March 12th or until we sell out!

The Webster Groves School District is implementing a new, district-wide health curriculum this year. Along with the new health curriculum, we have updated the way we will share the Human Growth and Development

information with students. Please read the [letter from Mr. Bonham](#) for more information. The lessons will start the week after spring break. A paper copy of the letter is also coming home in Backpack Mail this week.

Please read the [letter from Dr. Starks regarding payment for Camp Wyman](#). While your child will not attend Camp Wyman until the fall, payment is collected this school year since our generous PTO helps offset the cost for our students. Payment of \$150 per student is due by May 1. More information regarding how to pay is in the letter. A paper copy of the letter is also coming home in Backpack Mail this week.

Finally, we could always use more disinfectant wipes and disinfecting hand soap for our classroom. I understand that they are in high demand right now, but if you have a spare you don't mind sending in, we would greatly appreciate it. We are doing our best as a class to keep our room clean and healthy.

Wishing you all a fun and relaxing spring break!

Mark Your Calendars!

- Wednesday, March 11: Sign-up for Razzmatazz opens
- Thursday, March 12:
 - ◆ [Avery Night at the Ballpark](#) forms are due
 - ◆ Steger Elective Enrollment Forms are due
- March 13-20: No School, Spring Break
- March 20: Bruce Cameron, author of A Dog's Purpose, visits Fox High School, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you are interested in more information, here's a [link](#) to the flyer. To register for the free event, [go here](#).
- Week of March 23: Human Growth and Development lessons begin, see [letter from Mr. Bonham](#)
- Wednesday, March 25: March Book Orders due, class code for ordering online **HK8KB**
- Monday, March 30: PTO Blood Drive
- Friday, April 3:
 - ◆ Steger Bus Transportation Forms due to Steger Sixth Grade Center
 - ◆ Avery Play, 7:00 p.m. in the Steger Auditorium
- Saturday, April 4: Avery Play, 4:00 p.m. in the Steger Auditorium
- Wednesday, April 8: [Avery Night at the Ballpark](#)
- Friday, April 10: [Six Flags Read to Succeed online reading logs](#) are due (school-wide deadline)
- Friday, April 17: Razzmatazz
- Friday, May 1: Camp Wyman payment is due

Links

[Mrs. Hartz's Class Schedule 2019-2020](#)

[Monthly Book Projects](#)

[Genius Hour Reflection](#)

[5th Grade Parties Sign-up](#)

[Positive Thoughts & Affirmations](#)

[Avery Elementary Homepage](#)

[WG School District Calendar 2019-2020](#)

[Avery Absence Reporting Link](#)

Fifth Grade Learning

Reading

- In Unit 3: Argument and Advocacy, Researching Debatable Issues, students will begin by reading and analyzing a variety of arguments. Students will also work in groups to study a debatable issue and develop other questions and ideas around the issue in order to engage in more complicated conversations. Students will learn to read and reread texts with a more critical eye, considering perspective and craft while also evaluating arguments.
- Students should be continuing to work on their monthly book project, reading and writing about their chosen high-quality book. This month they are reading a nonfiction book and creating a nonfiction mini-book that includes important vocabulary and new facts. The project is due Tuesday, March 31.

Writing

- In Unit 4: The Research-Based Argument Essay, students will build on their learning from our last unit about research writing. Students will read about and research a debatable topic in order to write argument essays. After reading texts and exploring reasons on both sides of the argument, students will make a claim with a solid argument of multiple reasons supported by research.

Spelling

- Students have been put into differentiated groups based on their middle of the year spelling inventory. Students receive new words every other week, and take bi-weekly spelling tests on Fridays.

Math

- We are working on Unit 5: Analyzing Patterns and Rules. In the first part of the unit, students will represent temperature and height over time on coordinate grids, interpreting the meaning of the points on the grid and the shape of the graph in terms of the situation. In the second part of the unit, students will develop and compare rules for numerical patterns generated when the area of perimeter of a rectangle is changing in regular ways.
- Our focus in intervention is geometry and properties of polygons. Applying specific vocabulary and precise definitions will be critical to students' understanding in this unit.

Science and Social Studies

- We are working on our study of early America in Social Studies. Students will learn about early explorers and Foundations of America (colonization, Declaration of Independence, Revolutionary War, and the Constitution).

Miscellaneous ~ Contact Mrs. Hartz

As always, please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

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