Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe, but we are already approaching the end of the second trimester. The schedule has been a bit messed up, but hopefully we can finally get a full week in next week. There are many things coming up during the next few weeks. I think this covers all of the big things:

5th Grade Yearbook Ads are due by February 7 and should be emailed to dykhouse3@gmail.com

Parent conferences are quickly approaching. Conferences are Tuesday, February 25 and Thursday, February 27. Parent conference request notes will come home next Friday, February 7 in Friday Folders. Please have those returned before Thursday, February 13.

Valentine Room Parties are Thursday, February 13 from 2:15-2:45.

5th Grade Biztown Trip is Wednesday, February 26. Students will need to arrive at school early and have a plan for getting home that day. We will leave school by 7:45 am and return by 4:30. Please return the yellow permission slip for your child and think about being a parent volunteer. We need 4-5 parents per classroom. There is a pink form to sign up with this in the packet that was sent home Monday.

Next Week is Kindness Week
Special Days/Dress up are:
Monday: There’s no place like home for kindness! PJs/comfy clothes
Tuesday: Kindness never takes a vacation. Tourist/beach clothes
Wednesday: Wherever you go, kindness is classy! Fancy/dress up clothes, we will have our first annual fancy lunch event!
Thursday: Kindness is our job, but it’s not hard work! Clothes to represent a job.
Friday: We make Fairview the kindest place to be! FVE colors/spirit wear

Outside Recess:
As we continue our transition to a place-based school, our staff has been rethinking how we do school here at Fairview. One of the topics we’ve been discussing is indoor vs. outdoor recess. Place-based schools who truly value children learning, playing, and growing outside should encourage and enable students to have those opportunities!

As a result, we are going to make a conscious effort for our students to have outdoor recess-- even when it is actively snowing or there is snow present on our playground. In that spirit, we have come up with some guidelines/suggestions that will help keep our students safe, warm, and dry while still enjoying their recess time.

1. We will still follow CPS temperature guidelines. If outside temps (with the windchill) are below 15 degrees, we will have indoor recess. If it’s warmer than that, and there is no ice, we will do our best to go outside!
2. We will encourage our children to WALK if there is snow outside for recess.
3. Acceptable: touching the snow, building with the snow, forming snow balls/bricks.
4. Unacceptable: Throwing the snow directly at other students.
5. We will not permit students to make snow angels or do anything that would cause them to become saturated with snow/water. We don’t want them to be wet and cold following outside recess.
6. Although we will do our best to allow students on the playground/wood chips when there is snow, we will not permit them to climb/play/slide on the equipment as the extra moisture could make those structures slick.

The best way to prepare your child for outside snow recess is to make sure he/she is dressed appropriately for the weather elements. Hats, gloves, coats, and boots go a long way whenever snow is present!

Science: Mr. Earls
We have been working on the solar system portion of Water Planet where the main objectives are:
Sequence the moon phases in the correct order (Moon phase study strip)
Describe the physical features of the planet Earth that allow life to exist.
Compare and contrast features of the Sun, Earth, Moon and other planets.

We have completed a packet with study information in class for the solar system objectives not related to the Moon. **We will be quizzing over the solar system and Moon phases information next Thursday, February 6.**

Social Studies: Mrs. Wilcoxson
The kids have been researching and comparing lifestyle, famous people, resources, beliefs, and jobs in the colonies. They are taking notes on charts and created a poster that compares and contrasts the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. Most of the kids finished today and posters will be hanging in the hall. The kids should be able to tell you some major differences in each area.
Our next unit will be the American Revolution beginning next week and will last the next few weeks. We will be discussing the events leading up to the Revolutionary War and will learn more details regarding the war along with some of the major battles. We will be covering Chapters 7 and 8 in the textbook.
For the next couple of weeks, we will be focusing on BizTown lessons in order to prepare for our trip. We should be back to studying the Revolutionary War before be leave for BizTown.

Math: Mrs. Everett
Recently we have been focusing on:
Comparing and ordering decimals
Rounding decimals to the nearest whole number, tenths, and hundredths
Plotting points on a coordinate grid
Using a coordinate grid to solve problems

Upcoming:
We will have a week preparing for our upcoming field trip to Biz Town. We will be learning about financial institutions, checking and savings accounts, interest, keeping a record of banking transactions, and adding and subtracting money and decimals. **Because of the snow days, and the Math class time we will spend preparing for the Biz Town field trip, I am delaying the Unit 4, Decimal Concepts and the Coordinate Grid,**
test. I hope to give the test the week of Feb. 17. Scores on that test will be factored into the Trimester 3 grade card.

Writing: Ms. Holman

  Students have been working hard in our writing classes this week covering a lot of ground! We have been diving deeper into our current pieces of work by concentrating more on our editing skills. We begin by editing independently and then working closely with our peers for additional feedback. It is so wonderful hearing the discussions students are having with one another as they offer comments on both mechanics and craft. Students take those conversations with their peers and rework their writings to make them better. This process has been successful for both the writer and the editor!

  We have also dabbled with some cursive writing this week! The majority of the students have enjoyed doing this in class! In fact, many students have asked if they could use cursive independently and have permission to do so! So many students impressed themselves with their penmanship! In this week’s Friday Folder, you will see an example or two!

  Also in this week’s Friday Folder, you will find our most recent spelling test! Our next set of words will be given to students next week! They will find that our new words will be connected to our upcoming work with our BizTown curriculum as we prepare for next month’s field trip.

  Have an extra fun weekend!

Sincerely,

The 5th Grade Team
Fairview Elementary School

Brian Earls
Laurie Everett
Tiffany Holman
Renee Wilcoxson