

Dear 5A Families,

First, please be sure to find the Camp Seymour packing list attached! We have quite a bit of learning ahead of us this week, but we are well aware that the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are already focused on camp. Be sure to start pulling out those warm, dry layers!

### **ELA**

Students have been busy working on the writing trait, **Word Choice** – selecting nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs that enliven their writing. We've been impressed with their progress! We're continuing to stress that assignments should be completed in full sentences, with capitalization and punctuation, unless otherwise indicated.

We're also working in class on the skills needed to effectively read for information and have introduced the concept of **Close Reading**. I'm attaching a short article about Close Reading. While geared to teachers, it gives a solid overview, with examples, of this strategy.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, it's common that students need to work, with support, to increase their **stamina** in reading a text multiple times to extract all of the meaning and nuances, just as they need to push themselves to revise and edit a piece of writing multiple times, in order to make it the best it can be at the time. We'll be working with them all year on these skills, habits, and the approaches to learning that help them to be successful learners!

Students should be reading at least 25 minutes each evening and should be keeping in mind that they need to earn **at least 15 Accelerated Reader points** per trimester, based on quizzes on eligible books that they have read. Most AR-related questions are best directed to Mrs. Feucht, who administers the program.

### **IB Unit – Organic Matter Cycles Through Our Living World in Systems of Interdependent Parts**

We're continuing to explore the questions below and are preparing for more inquiry and hands-on opportunities for learning and meaning making related to our central idea, *"Organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts"* at Camp Seymour. When we return, students will have the opportunity to select from three ecological issues to transfer their knowledge and create and communicate a possible way to address the challenge. This will be our culminating project. In addition, they will be keeping Camp Journals, in which they reflect on their learning in this unit in connection to what they are learning at camp.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What is our responsibility in the ecosystem that we are a part of?
- What do plants need to thrive?
- How do plants impact the web of life?
- Why do you have to clean a fish tank and not a pond?
- In what ways does the sun's energy impact life
- In what ways do decomposers help our garden, food chain, ecosystem?

In **Math**, we will continue our study of Chapter 2: Multiplying Whole Numbers. Our upcoming lessons will focus on multiplying by one-digit numbers, & multiplying by two-digit numbers. We will also spend a couple of days reviewing for our **Chapter 2 Test on Friday!** Your child will be bringing a study guide home this week. Exponents and Prime Factorization, as well as using the Distributive Property and Partial Products, are the major concepts of this chapter. During each math lesson, the students will complete an independent practice page to show their understanding of the skill for the day. There will

also be an additional practice page for homework. In addition, students will be expected to complete at least 45 minutes of ALEKs per week.

**Religion** – We’ve been exploring how we can be good stewards of God’s creation, learning about psalms that express praise for God’s creation, journaling, and learning about and praying the Rosary in this month of October, in which the Church celebrates Mary. We’ll be recognizing and sharing signs of God’s presence and love in our lives, in preparation to move more deeply into Sacraments after camp!

Our **Second Step** lesson for the week will focus on ***Accepting Differences***. The students will complete an in-class activity on Tuesday. There will be a Home Link worksheet to complete with an adult at home and turn in by Thursday. Thank you for the time and attention that you give to these with your child!

**Family Groups** – Last week, we gathered in our school family groups to complete a *Falling into Fall* activity to help us get reacquainted with our “family” members and begin to get to know our new members.

**St. Luke-a-thon** - Please remember that pledge payments should be in by Friday.

**Important Dates THIS week:**

- **Tuesday** – Mental Health Presentation for Parents (evening)
- **Wednesday** – Library (return books!)
- **Thursday** – Feast of St. Luke (please join us!), Parents Club Meeting (evening)
- **Friday** – Mental Health Assembly (for students), Art, Robotics, Progress Reports go home

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

- **10/23 – 10/26 (Tuesday – Friday) – 5th grade Camp Seymour**
- 10/27 (Saturday) – Bingo Bash!
- 10/30 (Tuesday) – Picture Retakes (new date)
- 11/1 (Thursday) – All Saints Day (please join us!)