

5A News
October IB Theme: **BALANCED**

Dear 5A Families,

Please remember that Friday is a staff in-service day, and a no-school day for students!

Math

We're continuing to review prime factorization, and students have learned about exponents and are able to use the vocabulary: base, exponent, squared, and cubed. We're working on the problem solving strategy of using charts to solve problems. As we work through the multiplication strategies in this chapter, students are learning to identify patterns that help them make meaningful connections and applications of their learning. Students should be completing at least 45 minutes of ALEKS practice at home each week.

ELA

Students continue writing paragraphs on a variety of topics, revising and editing their partner interview paragraph and prewriting and drafting an expository paragraph reflecting their learning about wildfires and their causes and effects on a forest ecosystem. For this assignment, we brainstormed a list of exciting word choices to include. We're reviewing topic sentences, concluding sentences, and strong sentences with supporting details, as well as editing for correct conventions. We're continuing to read non-fiction articles, looking for text evidence to support answers to comprehension questions. Students should be reading at least 25 minutes each evening.

IB Unit - Organic Matter Cycles Through Our Living World in Systems of Interdependent Parts

We've had many opportunities for transdisciplinary connections within this unit. Today, students read about people caring for their rain forest ecosystem and reflected further on the theme of care for creation, writing poems in their religion journals. Last week, students explored our IB questions, "Why do we have to clean a fish tank but not a pond?" and watched videos, discussed, completed an activity focused on creating a healthy habitat for a fish, and reflected on what they had learned, as part of this line of inquiry. We'll be learning about the interdependent relationship between micorrhizal fungi and their host plants and how energy cycles through a system as plant life is transformed into nutrient-rich compost. We started with learning about worm composting and making observations in our garden's worm compost bin. The class expressed enthusiasm for growing mushrooms after one of our science videos, so we might just try that as well!

I was asked about questions for discussion at home related to our unit. Below you'll find the Central Idea, Key Concepts, Supporting Concepts, and Guiding Questions for our current "Web of Life" unit:

Central Idea: **Organic matter cycles through our living world in systems of interdependent parts.**

Key Concepts: **Responsibility, Connection, Function**

Related Concepts: **Sustainability, Transformation, Patterns, Energy**

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 do decomposers help our garden, food chain, ecosystem?
- In what ways does the sun's energy impact life?

Religion – We've begun learning about the Sacraments of Initiation, starting with Baptism. Tomorrow, the 5th graders will gather in the church with the MYP students for a presentation about the parish mission (this was inadvertently listed as happening last week, due to a calendar error!) Last week, we had a great time celebrating St. Francis with the annual St. Luke Blessing of the Pets!

Our **Second Step** lesson for the week will focus on *Taking Others' Perspectives*. 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.

St. Luke-a-thon

Please remember that pledge payments can be made [online](#).

Important CYO Boy's Basketball Update

October 10th is the deadline for our 5th Grade Basketball Team to plan out its season. As of this morning, only 5 students were signed up. St. Luke's might need to combine with another school if we aren't able to sign up enough players for our own team. St. Luke's had a full roster last season with 11 kids and had a fabulous season and hope we can continue with the same kids but also add some new ones!

Important Dates:

- 10/11 (Thursday) – Regional High School Information Night
- 10/12 (Friday) – No School (Teacher In-service)
- 10/13 (Saturday) – Robotics League Event @ Seattle Prep
- **10/16 (Tuesday) – Mental Health Presentation for Parents (date correction!)**
- 10/17 (Wednesday) – Photo Retakes
- 10/18 (Thursday) – Feast of St. Luke, Parents' Club Meeting
- **10/23 – 10/26 (Tuesday – Friday) – 5th grade Camp Seymour**
- 10/27 (Saturday) – Bingo Bash!