

# Pearl Rhodes Elementary

## Weekly News

### September 21, 2017



#### News from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Here we are in a new year! So far we are working on routines and learning about how to function well as a group. Also, we are spending a lot of time thinking and talking about how to be a good friend, and what it means to be an active, thoughtful student.

Academically we are covering some basics. For morning work we are correcting paragraphs which are chock full of errors; from this the students have already become better at finding errors in their own writing. For math morning work we have completed a series on place value and are nearly done a series which reviews basic calculations. The students are getting used to the homework routine in the upper grades. Including reading, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders should be doing about an hour of homework nightly. Each night, the students are expected to log their reading and, twice a week, write a reading reflection. Also the students will have math homework each night. Homework will be assigned in other curriculum areas as the year goes on. While I don't assign weekend homework, this time may be used to help students catch up on incomplete work or study for tests.

The students are nearly done their first essay of the year, the summer essay. Along with this work the students are learning and applying the tools good writers' use which include figurative language, using renamers (giving the main noun in the sentence a new name), starting sentences with verbs, and varied sentence structure. We are also reviewing the parts of speech.

Together we are reading *Sarah, Plain and Tall*, by Patricia MacLachlan, which is the first book in a four part series about the experiences of a Midwestern family in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. For read aloud the students are listening to *Riding Freedom* by Pam Munoz Ryan which features a young woman who is forced to make her way independently in the mid 1800's. In math, we have been reviewing the basics while most recently working on the divisibility rules and applying them to factor numbers. We have just begun the regular textbook curriculum. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is starting the year with fractions and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade with solving factor puzzles.

I am looking forward to meeting my new 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents and seeing my 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents at Open House early next month!

Lisa Armstrong

#### Upcoming Events

**October 4**

PRES Open House,  
5:30PM



**October 9**

Columbus Day,  
No School



**October 23**

School Pictures

**October 27**

No School, Teacher In-Service  
Day

**November 10**

Veteran's Day, NO SCHOOL

**November 20**

Picture Retakes

#### PICTURES Rescheduled!

**Monday 10/23**

Lifetouch order forms  
are available in the  
main office.



#### Art Class Request

Mrs. W would like to make leaf print t-shirts with grades 3 – 6. If possible, please send in a white t-shirt with your child by September 29<sup>th</sup>. Any child that doesn't have a t-shirt can make a cloth wall hanging.

Thank you, Mrs. W.



PK/K in morning meeting, and in music!

