

# 5th grade

MS. DUNN  
MR. MARSH



## Everything you wanted to know about 5th grade curriculum...and more

### New Reader's Workshop for 5th grade!

The Mill Valley School District recently provided training for teaching staff on Reader's Workshop, a project of Columbia University. In fifth grade, we are very excited to be implementing many of the aspects of Reader's Workshop.

The components of the program include assessment of

each student to find an appropriate book, book clubs with targeted reading assignments, note-taking based on reading, and lots of conversation about reading strategies and about books.

All year long, students will be reading and organizing their thoughts about reading and the content of their books, to help develop a strong sense of what it

feels like to read closely, and to re-read and analyze literature as part of the process of growing as a reader.

### In this newsletter:

- \*Areas of Writing
- \*Math Curriculum
- \*Literacy Development
- \*Social-Emotional Care
- \*Technology
- \*Activities Calendar

### Real World Skills



## Technology

We believe that 5th graders deserve instruction and practice in the use of authentic, real world skills. We introduce students to email usage and etiquette, to using web based word processing, and to posting and commenting online to a shared writing community.

## Social Studies and Science

Ms. Dunn teaches social studies to all 5th graders, Mr. Marsh teaches science.

### Social Studies Topics

- \*Native North Americans
- \*Early Exploration
- \*Settlement of the original 13 colonies
- \*The Revolutionary War
- \*The American system of government
- \*States and Capitals.

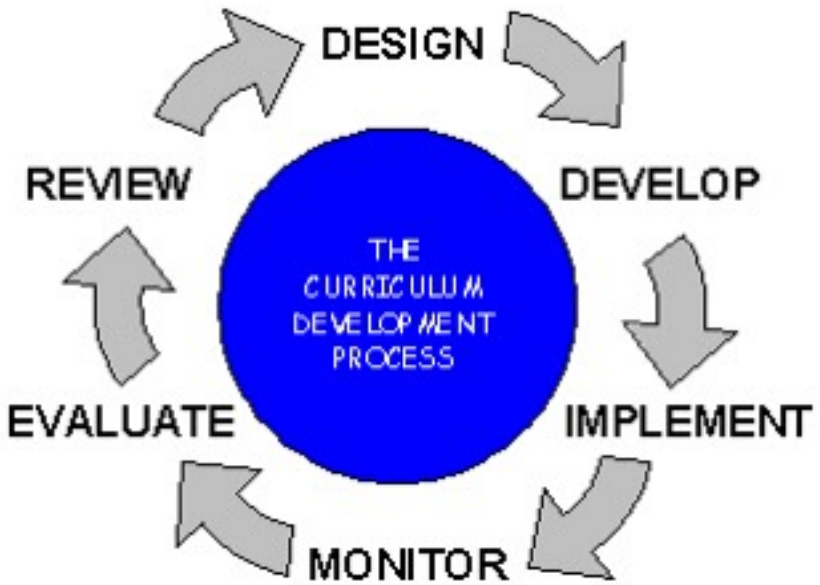
### Science Topics

- \*Human Body Systems
- \*Plant Systems
- \*Weather Systems
- \*Chemistry
- \*Human Reproduction

During the course of study, we will integrate math (metric system, measurement) as well as writing essays and reading informational texts into the topics listed above.

## Health Education

In fifth grade, students will learn about the human reproductive systems, how the systems work together, pregnancy, and genetics. This happens late in the year, typically mid-May.



### Reading program nuts and bolts

- \*One 5th grade book in September
- \*Book clubs for the remainder of the year
- \*Book clubs (3-4 week reading period for each book):
  - 1 discussion meeting per week
  - 1 written book activity per week
  - 1 written assessment per book
  - 1 culminating project
- \*Daily comprehension activities (morning reading program)

### Writing program

By the end of fifth grade, each student will have completed:

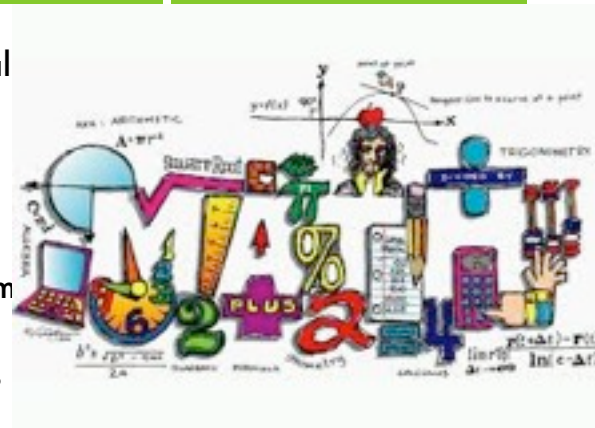
- \*Weekly online writing community posts (with comments)
- \*Compare/contrast essays between the student and a book character, and between Plymouth and Jamestown settlements
- \*Research project blog that includes development of questions to drive research, note-taking, summation of research, developing step-by-step "how to" instructions related to the topic, and posting a bibliography, as well as design elements
- \*An opinion essay (persuasive essay)
- \*A personal narrative (memoir or anecdotal writing)
- \*Poetry
- \*A fictional story
- \*A collaborative story with a kindergartner
- \*Thank you letters
- \*Speech writing (how-to, colonial fair, graduation)
- \*Writing as integrated into everyday work, as well as daily grammar, punctuation and spelling instruction.

<h1>Activities</h1> <p>A rough breakdown of activities as they fall in the three school semesters.</p> <p>Listed are either holidays or activities.</p>	September to November	December to March	April to June
	<p>September: *Back to School Night</p>	<p>December: *Winter Sing-a-Long *MSI boat trip *Winter break</p>	<p>April: *Spring Break</p>
	<p>October: *Veggie Monsters Day (Halloween) *Halloween Parade</p>	<p>January/February: *Market Day *Valentine's Day *President's Day break</p>	<p>May: *State testing *Colonial Fair *Muir Woods Hike *Human Reproduction Education *Open House *Middle School Tour</p>
	<p>November: *Parent/Teacher conferences *Thanksgiving</p>	<p>March: *Banana Slugs/ Oceans Week *Headlands *Trout release</p>	<p>June: *Graduation</p>

**Math topics in 5th grade:**

- \* Order of Operations
- \* Prime Factorization
- \* Exponential Notation
- \* Place Value (to .001)
- \* Rounding/Estimation
- \* Multiply and divide
- \* Add and subtract
- \* Decimals in operations
- \* Equivalent fractions
- \* Fractions and mixed numbers in operations
- \* Measurement conversions
- \* Graphing
- \* Understand and use the formula to find volume
- \* Coordinate plane graphing of ordered pairs

- \* Classify two dimensional figures based on their properties
- \* Know the differences between trapezoids, rhombuses, parallelogram and rectangles
- \* Know the sum of angles of a triangle and of a quadrilateral
- \* Find area of a square, rectangle, triangle and parallelogram using a formula.
- \* Analyze and solve word problems for all areas above, using a variety of strategies.



Math homework consists entirely of Excel math. Use of this program is based on Alfie Kohn's research about the efficacy of math homework.