

FIFTH GRADE NEWSLETTER

February 2010

Dates to Remember:

- **February 12th**- Science Fair!
- **February 26th**- 27 de Febrero Presentation

February Birthdays!

February^{5th} Andrea!

Please enjoy reading about what we have been learning and working on in each subject!

In **Reading**, we finished reading *Walk Two Moons*. We learned a lot from the book, and from the main character, Sal's, story. Students learned not to judge someone without knowing, that they should be grateful for what they have, and who they have around them, and that sometimes difficult things happen in life, and you have to have hope to get through them.

We will start reading *Out of the Dust*, a historical fiction novel, written in poetry. It is a beautiful story of a young girl and her family's struggle to keep their farm during the Dust Bowl of the 1930's.

Students are also reading different books, according to each student's level, in Guided Reading groups. They are able to discuss different questions and ideas that they have with other members of their

groups. Students also continue reading books independently. They have been challenged to read at least 3 independent reading books this trimester.

In **Writing** students are working on putting together realistic fiction stories. *Walk Two Moons* is a realistic fiction novel, so each student is now having the opportunity to write their own. We have learned about the Five Facts of Fiction, and students had to create these five facts for their stories. I have been very impressed with the ideas and lessons that students are incorporating into their stories!

In **Theme**, we finished studying Electricity and Magnets, and had our test. We are having our Science Fair on Friday, February 12th. Students have learned the Scientific Method much more in depth, and have realized what goes into being a scientist!

We are starting to study the Reproductive System, which is an interesting study on one of the most important systems in our body! Parents should know that this is **not** a Sexual Education class, but rather a science class about body parts, and how they work together to help humans reproduce! We will also talk about puberty, what it is, and what changes take place in your body during that time.

In **Math**, we have been learning more about graphs and plots, how to make them and how to read them. Students are good at finding landmarks in a set of data! We are now turning back towards fractions, and will be studying more about

mixed numbers, and adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions.

In **Spanish**, students are working hard on their *27 de Febrero* Presentations! Please remember that on Friday, the 26th, they will present their hard work!

Tombuctú. Por otra parte estamos estudiando la trata negrera, hemos podido concluir con distintos enfoques que enriquecieron las clases de Sociales.

¡Les esperamos el viernes 26 de Febrero!

Geraldine

Febrero 2010

En **Lectura** continuamos leyendo el libro “**La canción de Amina**”, en el que discutimos elementos de la trama, descripciones de los personajes y escenarios. A través de la lectura de este libro, hemos estado analizando diferentes puntos de vista y comprendiendo mejor las nociones del género de ficción histórica. Los chico/as están muy entusiasmados con los capítulos leídos hasta el momento y suelen hacer predicciones sobre los sucesos a seguir, por lo que las discusiones del aula son bastante animadas.

En **Escritura** seguimos recopilando los datos de las entrevistas a nuestros familiares. Los estudiantes han trabajado muy concentradamente para escribir los primeros párrafos de sus memorias familiares. Estamos enfocándonos en la estructura de los párrafos, el orden secuencial y coherente de las ideas. Por último, reforzaremos el uso del vocabulario para mejorar la expresión de las ideas. Esperamos poder publicar los trabajos individuales para mediados de marzo. Les enviaremos dos copias, una para el estudiante y otra para el entrevistado.

En **Sociales** estamos muy activos con los preparativos del acto del 26 de febrero. Seguimos estudiando el tema de las exploraciones portuguesas y África, temas que serán representados en el acto. Estamos analizando nociones sencillas de geografía africana, los antiguos imperios de Malí, Benín y