

# November Newsletter

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Language Arts:

We are almost done with *Walk Two Moons*. We have had great discussions since one of the characters leaves another character messages in the form of quotes. *In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter?* is one of the quotes that have been most useful to us. Whenever a small problem arises in class and there is a conflict, I ask the students, "In the course of a lifetime, what does it matter?" Other quotes that have been useful are *Don't judge a man until you've walked two moons in his moccasins* and *You can't keep the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can keep them from nesting in your hair*. We are constantly making connections to these quotes in our group discussions.

In writing, we are now working on our second piece of writing. They will follow the steps for revision we did as a class for the first piece now on their own. They will need to outline the story, crossing out the unnecessary details. They will choose events in their stories to show, not tell. They will organize the details and add transitions; write three different beginnings and three different endings for their stories and decide on the best ones; add dialogue and change word choice, all on their own.

### Mathematics:

We have finished Unit 3 and are now working on Unit 4 which is a short unit on Division. We will then have a trimester test to assess all the Math skills they need to have mastered by November. This will be helpful to determine who needs additional help in certain necessary skills.

### Theme:

We are working on North America. We are studying the geographical aspects of the three countries and will move on to their history and forms of government. We will be making a timeline with the main historical events of all three countries, labeling the map of North America on the wall, and comparing and contrasting Canada's parliamentary government with United States's republican government. We will finish with the study of prejudice and tolerance, touching on how these countries have different situations of prejudice.

Thanks,  
Norma Oliveira