

Mrs. Walsh – Homeroom 5B



September 2010

Welcome Back to School!!

Calendar Information:

(Please check the calendar on the school Web site for additional dates or last-minute changes)

September 2010

Wednesday, Sept. 8:	First Day of Fifth Grade! 12:15 Dismissal
Thursday, Sept. 9:	12:15 Dismissal
Friday, Sept. 10:	8:45 Mass; 12:15 Dismissal
Monday, Sept. 20:	Back to School Night, 7:30 p.m., Church Hall

Subject Area Information

Grade 5

Reading

Our program will begin with an introduction to genres of literature and the eight story elements that will be central to all of our reading this year. We will then apply this material using the two summer reading books, *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Please be sure students have these two books with them for the first three weeks of school.

We will be reading several stories in our reading book for the first part of the school year. The first two selections will be “McBroom Tells the Truth” and “Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed”/“Invasion from Mars.” Reading units for each story will include identifying its genre and eight story elements, independent and class reading, vocabulary lists (usually 20-25 words), comprehension questions, activity book pages, cooperative group learning assignment, and a related project. Tests on any story consist of both vocabulary and comprehension sections, and all tests are announced at least one week prior to be given.

The first novel we will read is *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, which we will begin after Thanksgiving break. We will also read *Number the Stars*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, and *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson*. Students will be given two weeks' notice prior to the first day a book is needed in class.

Test and Project Due Dates:

Friday, 9/10/10: Summer Reading Project

Additional test dates will be posted by the week of 9/13/10. There are no tests or quizzes during the week of 9/7/10.

Math

As students begin the fifth grade math program, it is important that they develop good study habits and working skills. Doing well in math requires making a consistent effort to understand each concept taught, so that it can be built upon in the next lesson. Some information requires memorization (multiplication tables, for example), and students must also master the steps in different processes (long division, for example) so they can apply them to various problems.

It is essential that students review class notes daily, complete homework thoughtfully and carefully, and actively participate in class. Students will need a math notebook and a math journal (a.k.a. another notebook) in addition to their textbook and workbook. Students must be prepared for class—pencils sharpened, assignments completed, test folders signed as necessary, and books with them. Extra help will be available as needed during lunch-time recess and after school.

In September, we will begin with Chapter 1: Place Value, Addition, and Subtraction, which includes identifying the place and value of digits to the hundred millions place; reading and writing numbers in standard form, expanded form, and as a word name; and adding and subtracting large numbers.

Test and Project Due Dates:

Test dates will be posted by the week of 9/13/10. There are no tests or quizzes during the week of 9/7/10.

Grade 6

Reading

We will begin our reading program with a review of genres of literature and story elements—particularly characterization and plot development—using *Number the Stars* and *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* from the summer reading list. Please be sure students have the books with them for the first two weeks of class.

Our first novel for this year is *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare. Students need to have the book with them in class on Wednesday, Sept. 15. This

Newbery Medal-winning novel takes place in the American colonies in 1687 and follows Kit Tyler as she adjusts to a new life in Puritan Connecticut. The story offers a vivid picture of colonial America while exploring issues of friendship, prejudice, and personal truths.

Test and Project Due Dates:

Friday, 9/10/10: Summer Reading Project
Friday, 9/17/10: Genres of Fiction/Story Elements Test

Math

This math year will be challenging for our students, as we extend our knowledge and proficiency with fractions, decimals, and geometry, and move into integers, solving equations with variables, ratio/proportion/percents, and statistics and probability. It is essential that students review class notes daily, complete homework thoughtfully and carefully, and actively participate in class. Students will need a math notebook and a math journal (a.k.a. another notebook) in addition to their textbook and workbook. Students must be prepared for class—pencils sharpened, assignments completed, test folders signed as necessary, and books with them. Incomplete homework assignments or failure to return signed test folders promptly will result in a demerit. Extra help will be available as needed during lunch-time recess and after school.

We will start at the beginning in September, covering Chapters 1 and 2, which review addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, as well as place value to the hundred trillions place and the millionths place.

Test and Project Due Dates:

Test dates will be posted by the week of 9/13/10. There are no tests or quizzes during the week of 9/7/10.

Additional Subject Area Information

Teachers and Subject Assignments

Math and Reading—Mrs. Walsh
Science and Language Arts/Spelling—Miss Green
Social Studies and Religion—Mr. Puntasecca

Please check Miss Green's and Mr. Puntasecca's bulletin boards for additional subject area information.

5B Class Rules

- **Be on time.** Please arrive in the morning by the 8:20 a.m. bell, so that you can unpack and get organized during homeroom period with the rest of the class. Please move quietly from one classroom to another, take your seat promptly, and be ready for class to begin.
- **Be prepared.** Have all your school supplies with you and make sure they are in usable condition (which means, make sure the pencils have points on them!). Bring the right books to class. Do your assignments conscientiously and turn them in on time. Check your backpack before you leave class in the afternoon to make sure you have everything you need for homework. Then, check your backpack at night to make sure you have everything you need to bring back to school the next day.
- **Be kind to your classmates and your teachers.** Follow the Golden Rule and treat others as you expect to be treated. Be courteous and respectful to everyone you meet during the day. We want positive energy in 5B!
- **Do your best, always.** No exceptions, no excuses. Don't compare yourself to anyone else—you are unique. You have talents that God has given to you alone, and you are meant to use them for everyone's benefit!