

Ms. Olson's

5th and 6th Grade

Week of March 26th - 30th



Spring Break

March 19th - 23rd

Spring Break. Spring Break will be held the week of **March 19th through the 23rd**. The following week, on March 30th, report cards will be issued. Friday, March 30th is an early release day (12:30 p.m.). **If you would like to schedule a Parent Conference for Friday afternoon, please send a note with your child.**



Memorization Project.

Our class will be memorizing "The Gettysburg Address" as part of our American History goals. From now until May, we will learning sections of the speech together in class. The second section is as follows:

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

AZ Merit Assessments. Beginning April 2nd, students - third grade and above - take the AZ Merit Assessments in ELA (English/Language Arts) and Math. These assessments are based on the Arizona College and Career Standards. As of Monday, we have one week to prepare for these assessments. During this time, we will be participating in comprehensive reviews of reading, writing, English, and math skills. Class work and homework assignments will focus on skills practice. It is really important that students be on time and in attendance for these important practice lessons.



Spelling List.

very vary various decide
decision nation national recent
busy business refer minute ought
absent absence confer
conference Wednesday real
really celebration folk folks ache
aches anger angry angrily
political minute

Phonograms.

a e i o u l f m g th ea ch
ci ce ei gi gu tch eau igh

Skills Practice.

Our regular homework will be modified to reflect reviewing skills in preparation for the April assessments.

Math: Monday through Thursday Skill sheets covering addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, ratio and probability, decimals, geometry, and word problems.

Reading: Reading for detail, using inference, citing evidence from text, and overall comprehension strategies. (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Writing: Use of topic sentences, supporting details and/or reasons and concluding statements. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling rules will be reviewed.

Multiage classrooms utilize an organizational structure in which children of different ages (at least a two-year span) and ability levels are grouped together, without dividing them or the curriculum into steps labeled by grade designation (Gaustad, 1992).

Strategies for Taking Tests

The Night Before . . .

Get a good night's sleep

the night before the exam

Don't go to the exam with an empty stomach

Fresh fruits and vegetables are often recommended to reduce stress.

Stressful foods can include processed foods, artificial sweeteners, carbonated soft drinks, chocolate, eggs, fried foods, junk foods, pork, red meat, sugar, white flour products, chips and similar snack foods, foods containing preservatives or heavy spices

Take a small snack, or some other nourishment

to help take your mind off of your anxiety.

Avoid high sugar content (candy) which may aggravate your condition

During the test:

- Read the directions carefully
- Budget your test taking time
- Change positions to help you relax
- If you go blank, skip the question and go on
- If you're taking an essay test and you go blank on the whole test, pick a question and start writing. It may trigger the answer in your mind
- Don't panic - when students start handing in their papers. There's no reward for finishing first

Use relaxation techniques

If you find yourself tensing and getting anxious during the test:

Relax; you are in control.

Take slow, deep breaths

Don't think about the fear

Pause: think about the next step and keep on task, step by step

Use positive reinforcement for yourself:

Acknowledge that you have done, and are doing, your best

Expect some anxiety

It's a reminder that you want to do your best and can provide energy

Just keep it manageable

Realize that anxiety can be a "habit"

and that it takes practice to use it as a tool to succeed

