



Dear Parents,

The end of school is drawing near, and we're as busy as ever! One of our greatest challenges has been trying to do so much in what seems like very little time.

We've finished the Revolutionary War in Social Studies. We will begin learning about the formation of a New Government in Social Studies, including the writing of the U.S. constitution, three Branches of Government, and the challenges facing our newly formed country. That will wrap up our American History studies for fifth grade.

Our Science unit has our class studying the environment with Mrs.C. The students are learning to recognize the relationship between plants and animals in the environment. Producers and consumers in a food chain, attributes of birds of prey, classify the categories of mammals, balance of nature are what they are focusing on the most. In each of our homeroom classrooms the fifth graders have been dissecting owl pellets as part of their Life Science study. I'm sure that you've all probably heard about that already! (: Along with our visit to the Environmental Lab last week, this will end our fifth grade Science/Health studies.

We are nearing the end of our basal reader and are currently reading historical stories that correlate with our Social Studies. Along with our Guided Reading novels, the students seem to have enjoyed the many novel sets this year. Next week we will be taking our last STAR test for the year to measure their growth in reading. A big CONGRATULATIONS goes to the students in our class that reached their Book-it goals for the 6 months that we had the program sponsored by Pizza Hut. Way to go: Paige, Ethan, Brenda, Alexis, Sarah, and Jacob !! Also, keep reading those A.R. books! All library books must be turned in by Friday, May 16th, so that will mean the end of A.R. tests for the year. May the 15<sup>th</sup> will also be our last spelling test, and we will wrap up our Grammar/English studies with prepositional phrases and adverbs. The last DOL quiz is Friday, May 16th, also. We have been busy taking the Terra Nova standardized tests. We recently finished our fractions unit, and next week we will be reviewing some of the other Math indicators that we need more practice with. Last week we had 11 flashcard contests in order to choose representatives for the flashcard contest on the last day of school, including one alternate. Practice those facts with your child!

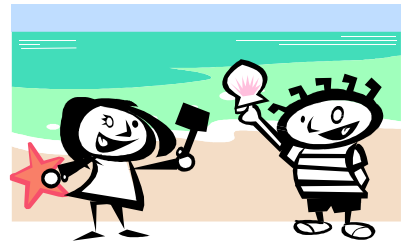
Report cards will be sent home the last day of school. Besides their grade card, they will have the results of their end-of-the-year STAR reading diagnostic test. There may be a few other things, but I think that those are the main reports.

Please encourage your child to continue to do their very best work. Some of them usually decide that school is already over, and they fall down with the quality of their work. I remind them that this is like the end of a long race, and they need to do their very, very best at the end, so that they finish as winners!

I have enjoyed working with this group of students. I can't think of a better class to end my teaching career with! You have a marvelous group of kids! Again, I have truly enjoyed working with them and watching them grow academically and developmentally. Your child will always have a special place in my heart. Thank you for all of your support, parents. We couldn't have done it without you!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Otto



May 13<sup>th</sup> - Play Day 1:00

May 16<sup>th</sup> - All library books must be turned in

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Last day of school... Awards ceremony 9:30, Flashcard contest 10:00, Talent show 2:00

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Summer begins for students!

*HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL SUMMER!  
I'LL MISS ALL OF YOU!!!!*

