



# Dogwood Elementary

*Moving from Good to Great, Creating a Community of Thinkers and Learners*

## Principal's Message

Hello Dogwood Family,

I would like to thank all of our parents and guardians for helping support our school year to get off to a great start! As most of you know, our school population is growing along with our teaching staff. Dogwood ES now has a fifth third and fifth grade teacher, one additional assistant principal, two additional guidance counselors, and one additional reading specialist. In addition to our growing staff, we are projected to have over 700 enrolled during the 16-17 school year. I am super excited about our growth, but with more students and staff members comes the need to review our procedures and practices. This includes ensuring that our students are safe when entering school, during the school day, and at dismissal. Parents who are driving their children to school in the morning will notice that all cars are asked to only drop students off along the fire lane. It is imperative to ensure that students exit each vehicle on the side closest to the sidewalk. Cars will not be allowed to create two lanes and drop students off near the parked cars in order to avoid students crossing unsafely in between cars. When entering the building, all parents have to Raptor in before moving beyond the main office. Lastly, there are over 100 students who are afternoon car riders. In order for the car rider system to work, I am asking all parents to stay in their car and display their assigned number. If any parent does not wish to wait in the car line they have to find an actual parking space and the student has to be signed out from the main office. Again, I have to ensure that all students and staff members are safe!

I am looking forward to having a wonderful, safe, and productive school year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Ms. Johari Toe

Principal

Dogwood Elementary School



Back to School Night –  
Sept. 6, 2016

## Important Dates:

**Monday, Sept. 12, 2016–**

School Closed for  
Systemwide Professional  
Development Day

**Monday, Oct. 3, 2016–** School

Closed for Rosh  
Hashanah

**Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2016–**

School Closed for Yom  
Kippur

**Friday, Oct. 21, 2016–** School

Closed due to Statewide  
Teacher Convention

**Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016–**

Lifetouch Picture Day

## Important PTA Dates

**Purple Pride T-Shirt Sale–**

Wed. Sept. 14, 2016– Fri.  
Sept. 30, 2016

**PTA Meeting–**Monday, Oct.

10, 2016 at 6:00pm

**Fit Friday–** Friday, Oct. 14,

2016 at 6:30pm

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### Health Corner— Nurse E. Edwards, RN

Sleep is essential to everyone's health and well-being. But many of us don't get enough of it. How much do you need? And what's the best way to tackle sleep problems?

- ✓ Preschoolers: Preschoolers sleep about 10 to 12 hours per night.
- ✓ School-Age Children and Preteens: School-age kids need 10 to 11 hours of sleep a night.
- ✓ Lack of sleep can cause irritable or hyper types of behavior and may make it difficult for kids to pay attention in school. It is important to have a consistent bedtime, especially on school nights. Be sure to leave enough time before bed to allow your child to unwind before lights out.

\*\*Dogwood Elementary is a Food Free Birthday Party school. Be creative if you are sending in goodie bags. The children enjoy a new pencil, erasers, and stickers. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

### Counselors Corner— Mrs. D. Bullock, Ms. J. Knauer, and Mr. A. Dukes

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Aristotle

- ✓ September's Character Trait— Respect for Self
  - ✓ It's that time of year for applications for the Magnet Programs! The application deadline is November 18, 2016 and the applications will be disbursed on September 14, 2016 to 5th grade students and pre-k students only. The important dates to remember are October 1, -MAGNET Expo, Oct-Nov-, Magnet Showcase Events. The Magnet Liaison is Ms. Bullock, school counselor.
  - ✓ The month of September classroom guidance is “Friendship”. Parents please allow your students to role play friendship skills with family and friends.
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Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
Kindergarten

Mrs. G. Cumbo, Room 105 – [gcumbo@bcps.org](mailto:gcumbo@bcps.org)  
Mrs. A. Jackson, Room 187 - [ajackson9@bcps.org](mailto:ajackson9@bcps.org)

Ms. S. Sanders, Room 107 – [ssanders3@bcps.org](mailto:ssanders3@bcps.org)  
Ms. R. Halperin, Room 108 – [rhalperin@bcps.org](mailto:rhalperin@bcps.org)

Phonics/Word Work Overview

- Letter recognition and letter formation for letters Aa-Zz
- Sight words I, can, and the
- Rhyme Recognition
- Reading Strategies
  - ❖ Read from left to right
  - ❖ Read with your finger
  - ❖ Make a picture in your mind
  - ❖ Make personal connections to the text
  - ❖ Ask and answer questions

ELA Overview

- RL.K.9 - With prompting and support, contrast the experiences of characters in a familiar story.
- RF.K.1d - Recognize and name upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- RF.K3c - Read common high frequency words by sight.

ELA Home/School Connection

- <https://www.abcmouse.com/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://pbskids.org/>

Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- K.CC.A.1 - Count to 100 by ones and tens.
- K.CC.A.3 - Write numbers from 0-20. Represent a number of objects with a written numeral 0-20 (with 0 representing a count of no objects).
- K.CC.B.4a - When counting objects, say the number names in the standard order, pairing each object with one and only one number name and each number name with one and only one object.
- K.CC.B.4b - Understand that the last number name said tells the number of objects counted. The number of objects is the same regardless of their arrangement or the order in which they were counted.

Math Home/School Connection

- <http://www.abcya.com/>
- <http://pbskids.org/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>

## Science or Social Studies Overview

- Weather Watchers-Students will be observing and analyzing weather data from now until the end of the school year.

### Upcoming Content Projects

- All About Me Bag Project: Students will be given materials in order to create a likeness of themselves, and attach it to a bag. Students will place three items in their bag which will describe their personal interest or talents. Projects are due in class on September 18, 2016.

### Upcoming Field Trip

- October 2016-Pumpkin Farm
- December 2016-National Aquarium
- March 2017-Attend a Play
- May 2017- TBD

### Special Note From the Team:

- Students are asked to bring a snack daily. Snack may consist of one edible item, and one beverage. No soda or candy please.
- Students are asked to bring in a complete change of clothing which will be stored in their cubby. Please bring items in a labeled clear shoe box or in a gallon sized Ziploc bag.
- Students are asked to bring their Take Home folder to school daily. Folders are used to transport important communications and work artifacts.

Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
First Grade

Mrs. L. Caplan, Room 111 – [lcaplan@bcps.org](mailto:lcaplan@bcps.org)

Mrs. Lewis, Room 103 – [tlewis3@bcps.org](mailto:tlewis3@bcps.org)

Ms. R. Wolfe, Room 110 – [rwolfe@bcps.org](mailto:rwolfe@bcps.org)

Mrs. D. Naden, Room 103 – [dnaden@bcps.org](mailto:dnaden@bcps.org)

Mrs. K. Winings, Room 102- [kwinings@bcps.org](mailto:kwinings@bcps.org)

Phonics/Word Work Overview

- First graders will be able to:
  - ❖ Identify the sounds of the alphabet and their beginning and ending sounds.
  - ❖ Build three and four letter words from the word families –at, -an,-it, -in.
  - ❖ Develop sound segmentation and phonemic awareness.
  - ❖ Read high frequency words such as: I, like, do, to, you, he, can, go, a, has, this, is, my, look, little, where, here, play, the, we, are, me, she, with, for, and, have, see, said, was. Make flashcards at home to practice these words.
  - ❖ Identify concepts of print.
    - Beginning a sentence with a capital letter
    - Using ending punctuation
    - Proper placement of quotation marks
    - Location of title page

ELA Overview

- First graders will be able to:
  - ❖ Ask and answer questions in a complete sentence.
  - ❖ Determining if a story is fiction and non-fiction.
  - ❖ Demonstrate listening comprehension.
  - ❖ Form an opinion.

ELA Home/School Connection

- Phonics-
  - ❖ <http://pbskids.org/games/>
  - ❖ <http://www.starfall.com/>
  - ❖ <https://www.spellingcity.com/>
  - ❖ <http://www.education.com/games/>
- Make flashcards, or play go fish, concentration.

## Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- First graders will be able to:
  - ❖ Count, compare, and order quantities.
  - ❖ Learn how to count forward and backward up to 30.
  - ❖ Identify different 2-addend combinations of the same number.
  - ❖ Apply Unit 1 math vocabulary words
    - combinations
    - equations
    - subtract
    - symbol
    - addition
    - total
    - compare
    - combine
    - sum

## Math Home/School Connection

- <http://www.coolmath-games.com/>
- <http://www.funbrain.com/FBSearch.php>
- <https://www.sumdog.com/>

Encourage your child to use counters to double check their work using everyday manipulatives found at home. For example, beans, cereal, or cotton balls.

## Health

First grade students will be able to identify making healthy choices, food choices, and having good hygiene in their everyday life.

### Upcoming Content Projects

There are no upcoming projects in the month of September.

### Upcoming Field Trips

- Aquarium-
  - ❖ October 25, 2016
  - ❖ Estimated price for trip is \$8.00 per student

## Special Note From the Team:

- Remember as the fall season approaches the weather may start getting cooler, therefore please dress your child in accordance to the daily forecast.
- Remember to wear sneakers on gym days.

Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
Second Grade

Jessica Miller, Room 214 [jmiller13@bcps.org](mailto:jmiller13@bcps.org)  
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Jessica Silver, Room 210 [jsilver@bcps.org](mailto:jsilver@bcps.org)

Maria Talerico, Room 212 [mtalerico@bcps.org](mailto:mtalerico@bcps.org)  
Caitlin Scappi, Room 213 [cscappi@bcps.org](mailto:cscappi@bcps.org)

Phonics/Word Work Overview

- Second grade students will learn how to identify the following sounds:
  - ❖ Short a as in apple
  - ❖ Short l as in insect
  - ❖ Short e as in egg
  - ❖ Short o as in octopus
  - ❖ Short u as in umbrella

ELA Overview

- Unit 1: Friendship- Essential Question: How do friends depend on each other?
  - ❖ The students will:
    - Recount stories by retelling the events. (RL.2)
    - Explore the structure of a literary text and the elements of the plot. (RL.5)
    - Describe characters in a story and how they respond to major events and challenges. (RL.3)

ELA Home/School Connection

- Go onto BCPSOne to review the lesson tiles that contain the stories and activities that are being covered this month.
- Visit the ReadingWonders site on BCPSOne to reread the stories with your child.

Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- Unit 1: Counting, Coins, and Combinations – Addition, Subtraction, and the Number System
  - ❖ The students will:
    - Recognize and draw shapes and be able to identify triangles, squares, and hexagons. (2.G.A.01)
    - Locate and represent points on a number line. (2.MD.B.06)
    - Tell and write the time of day from an analog and digital clocks to the nearest five minutes, using a.m. and p.m. (2.MD.C.07)
    - Solve word problems. (2.MD.C.08)

Math Home/School Connection

- Check the BCPSOne lesson tiles to view the supports we have assigned to assist your child. Some of the resources are created on ActivInspire which can be downloaded as a free limited version or opened up as a PowerPoint.
- Visit Dreambox on BCPSOne and observe your child's progress.
- [http://www.abcya.com/clear\\_it\\_addition.htm](http://www.abcya.com/clear_it_addition.htm)
- [http://www.abcya.com/telling\\_time.htm](http://www.abcya.com/telling_time.htm)

## Health Overview

- Unit 1: Personal Health
  - ❖ Students will demonstrate the ability to use mental and emotional health knowledge, skills, and strategies to enhance wellness. (HE.2.1)
  - ❖ Students will also be able to recognize appropriate methods of communication. (HE.2.1.A.1)

## Upcoming Content Projects

- The students will complete an in class project on healthy eating.

## Upcoming Field Trips

- The second grade team is currently planning a trip for the late fall 2016 and spring 2017. More information will be shared in the Oct. 2016 newsletter.

## Special Note From the Team:

- It is very important that your child is in attendance at school every day. If your child is absent please send in a note when they return to school.



Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
Third Grade

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Ms. Brown, Rm. 208 [abrown7@bcps.org](mailto:abrown7@bcps.org)

Ms. Simpkins, Rm. 209 [jsimpkins@bcps.org](mailto:jsimpkins@bcps.org)

#### Phonics/Word Work Overview

- Third grade students will continue to practice and identify the following sounds:
  - ❖ Short *a* and short *i*
  - ❖ Short *e*, *o*, and *u*
  - ❖ Final “Silent” *e*
  - ❖ Long *a*: *ay*, *ai*, *a\_e*, *ea*, *eigh*, *ei*, *ey*

#### ELA Overview

- Unit 1: How Humans Affect Animals
  - ❖ Students will apply the following skills:
    - writing paragraphs
    - identifying the main idea and key details
    - summarizing
    - asking and answering questions
    - determining the cause and effect

#### ELA Home/School Connection

- Questioning and Summarizing Practice
  - ❖ <http://reading.ecb.org/>
- Main Idea
  - ❖ <https://jr.brainpop.com/readingandwriting/comprehension/mainidea/>
  - ❖ <https://youtu.be/3KTQYoPhsKg>
  - ❖ <http://www.roomrecess.com/pages/MainIdea.html> - This game will help students identify the main idea, especially with multiple choice options that are similar to each other.
- Cause and Effect
  - ❖ <https://jr.brainpop.com/readingandwriting/comprehension/causeandeffect/>
  - ❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMTIuPvU6Lc>

#### Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- Unit 1 Multiplication and Division
  - ❖ Multiplication Strategies:
    - Repeated Addition/ Skip Counting
    - Pictures
    - Arrays
    - Number Lines

- ❖ Multiplication Facts : 0-9
- ❖ Division Story problems focusing on the number in each group and number of groups
- ❖ Commutative Property of Multiplication
- Distributive Property of Multiplication

#### Math Home/School Connection

\*Please use these recourses to help explain math concepts to your child at home.

- Multiplication with pictures
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/5934-interpret-products-by-drawing-pictures](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/5934-interpret-products-by-drawing-pictures)
- Arrays
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/6841-represent-multiplication-using-arrays](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/6841-represent-multiplication-using-arrays)
  - ❖ <https://jr.brainpop.com/math/multiplicationanddivision/arrays/>
- Multiplication on a number line
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/7932-interpret-products-using-a-number-line](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/7932-interpret-products-using-a-number-line)
- Commutative Property
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/8417](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/8417)
- Distributive Property –
  - ❖ <https://www.brainpop.com/math/numbersandoperations/distributiveproperty/>
- Division
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/6098-solve-division-problems-by-drawing-pictures](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/6098-solve-division-problems-by-drawing-pictures)
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/6542-visualizing-a-division-word-problem](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/6542-visualizing-a-division-word-problem)
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/5706-use-repeated-subtraction-for-division](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/5706-use-repeated-subtraction-for-division)

#### Science/Social Studies/Health

- Health
  - ❖ This unit will focus on building relationships. This includes bullying, handling conflicts, and building positive relationships with other.
- Social Studies
  - ❖ This unit will focus on exploring Asia. We will explore the specific continent, the culture, and the economy of Asia.

#### Upcoming Content Projects

- Unit 1 requires students to research an endangered animal. The students will create a book, poster, or Wixie in class. Research will begin this month around September 13, 2016.

#### Upcoming Field Trips

None at this time.

#### Special Note From the Team:

- Math and reading homework will be put into the gradebook as not graded. Students will have random checks for homework and they earn tickets for being responsible.
- Spelling homework will be given three times a week in a packet. Please choose the nights that work best for you and your child to complete the homework. The spelling words will match the phonics sound/pattern of the week. Spelling homework will be considered not graded and students will be awarded tickets for completion of spelling homework only.

- Students will be given weekly spelling tests. The homework will help reinforce the sound and words taught in school.
- Additional games for your child to play will be available on BCPSONE lesson tiles. These will change based on the skills we are working on weekly. Please bookmark any games that your child finds helpful or extremely engaging. If you would like to return to an activity from previous weeks, you can change the weekly date or look on the calendar to return to that activity.

Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
Fourth Grade

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Charday Sutton/ Carlita Josey- Room 203- [csutton@bcps.org](mailto:csutton@bcps.org) / [ciosey@bcps.org](mailto:ciosey@bcps.org)

Emily Egert- Room 204- [eegert@bcps.org](mailto:eegert@bcps.org)

Phonics/Word Work Overview

- Fourth grade students will continue to practice and identify the following sounds:
  - ❖ Short vowels in single and multisyllabic words
  - ❖ Long a, e, and i, in single and multisyllabic words

ELA Overview

- Unit 1 is entitled “We are the Stories We Tell.” As students interact with various first and second hand accounts they will be asked to consider the following essential questions:
  - ❖ What makes a person memorable?
  - ❖ How do journeys shape a person’s identity?
    - RL.4.1- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text
    - RL.4.2-Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text

ELA Home/School Connection

- Detailed explanations on the reading and literature standards addressed during Unit 1
  - ❖ [http://rpd.net/pdfs/NACS\\_ELA/Fourth%20Grade/Reading%20Literature/RL.4.1.pdf](http://rpd.net/pdfs/NACS_ELA/Fourth%20Grade/Reading%20Literature/RL.4.1.pdf)
- Practice reading comprehension skills
  - ❖ <http://www.learningfarm.com/web/practicePassThrough.cfm?TopicID=147>

Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- Unit 1- The focus is on place value which includes understanding numbers to the millions, and adding and subtracting whole numbers. The following standards will be covered:
  - ❖ Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right (ex: 700,000 is ten times 70,000) – 4NBT.A.1
  - ❖ Read and write multi-digit whole numbers using base ten numerals, number names, and expanded form. Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place using symbols of  $>$ ,  $<$ , and  $=$  to record results of comparison. - 4NBT.A.2
  - ❖ Use place value understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place. - 4NBT.A.3
  - ❖ Fluently add and subtract whole multi-digit whole numbers (up to 1,000,000) using the standard algorithm. 4NBT.B.4
  - ❖ Solve multi-step word problems posed with whole numbers and having whole number answers using the four operations, including problems in which remainders must be interpreted. 4.OA.A.3

- ❖ Vocabulary Focus:
  - base-ten numerals, expanded form, number name, millions, place value, value, decomposing, composing, period, rounding, estimation, conjecture, Commutative, Associative and Identity Properties of Addition, counting on, compensation, variable, algorithm, and inverse operations

Math Home/School Connection:

- Rounding activity:
  - ❖ <https://www.ixl.com/math/grade-4/rounding>
- Place value relationships:
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/7426-understand-relationships-between-digits-and-their-place-value](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/7426-understand-relationships-between-digits-and-their-place-value)
- Rounding on a number line:
  - ❖ [https://learnzillion.com/lesson\\_plans/6255](https://learnzillion.com/lesson_plans/6255)
- Pearson Lesson videos from Topic One
  - ❖ Access by students BCPS One log in
  - ❖ Go to Digital Content
  - ❖ Choose Pearson

Science or **Social Studies** Overview

Unit Title: Geography and Economics in the US

- Students will develop skills for interpreting a variety of maps in order to analyze the regions of Maryland and the United States.
  - ❖ Describe how people adapt to, modify, and impact the natural environment. 4.3.D.1.
  - ❖ Construct and interpret a variety of maps using map elements. 4.3.A.1.a.
  - ❖ Compare physical characteristics of different places and regions of Maryland and the United States. 4.3.B.1.a.
  - ❖ Identify and locate physical features and human-made features of the United States. 4.3.A.1.d.

Upcoming Content Projects.

- Health: Personal Health
  - ❖ For the unit assessment, the students will create a brochure/pamphlet or PowerPoint that highlights types of personal wellness, and provide examples of how to apply strategies in everyday life.
- Social Studies: Geography and Economics
  - ❖ For the end of the unit project, the students will write a letter to someone living elsewhere explaining how the geography of Maryland impacts their lives.

Upcoming Field Trips

- Planetarium
  - ❖ Connection to Space Unit
  - ❖ November/December
- Historic St. Mary's City
  - ❖ Connection to Social Studies Curriculum
  - ❖ Extended Day
  - ❖ May/June
  - ❖ Estimated \$40

Special Note From the Team:

- Students will have to sit for the fall ELA and math MAP assessment during the month of September. The MAP assessments will be taken in the classroom and on the student device.

Dogwood Elementary School  
September 2016 Newsletter  
Fifth Grade

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Phonics/Word Work Overview

- Fifth grade students will work on:
  - ❖ Short vowel sounds and multisyllabic words to improve our reading fluency.
  - ❖ Identifying different spelling patterns for each short vowel sound.

ELA Overview

- Fifth grade students will:
  - ❖ Identify and develop the theme of the novel *Out of My Mind*.
  - ❖ Learn how to quote accurately from a text to support our thinking.
  - ❖ Develop writing skills in order to write our narratives.
  - ❖ Track reading in order to identify key changes in plot, settings, or characters.

ELA Home/School Connection

- Here are some suggestions to help improve your child's reading comprehension at home
  - ❖ Reading Rockets- <http://www.readingrockets.org/>
  - ❖ Read Write Think- <http://www.readwritethink.org/>
  - ❖ Scholastic- <http://www.scholastic.com/home/>

Math Overview and Helpful Tips

- Fifth grade students will:
  - ❖ Read and write decimals to thousandths using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form.
  - ❖ Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left.
  - ❖ Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.

Math Home/School Connection

- Here are some suggestions to practice the mathematical skills we are working on at home.
  - ❖ Dreambox.com (accessed through BCPSOne)
  - ❖ <http://www.coolmath.com/>
  - ❖ <https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>

Science or Social Studies Overview

- In science students will: (Artis and Crump)
  - ❖ Explore weather patterns, meteorological events, and the water cycle.
- In social studies student will: (Williams, Handzo, and Voystock)
  - ❖ Examine the similarities and differences of regions in colonial America.
  - ❖ Explore the geography, economy, and daily lives of colonial America.

#### Upcoming Content Projects

- Fifth grade students will:
  - ❖ Write a narrative story that will have a similar theme to the novel read in class.
  - ❖ Develop a story that shows a character transformation through character and plot development.

\* This is slated to begin in late September and continue until early October.

#### Upcoming Field Trips

- Eco-Trekkers:
  - ❖ December 1, 2016
  - ❖ Students are going to Marshy Point and Miami Beach located in Eastern Baltimore County.
  - ❖ Students will apply what they've learned in class regarding animals and how they thrive in their habitats.
  - ❖ The trip is free.
- *Philadelphia*:
  - ❖ End of May or early June
  - ❖ Approximately \$50.00

#### Special Note From the Team:

- Fifth grade is tentatively scheduled to receive their devices in Mid-November.
- Please join Class Dojo. The fifth grade team is using Class Dojo as a main source of communication to share your child's daily progress and upcoming events.