



Dear Parents,

Welcome to February!

This month in Literacy we are reading non-fiction texts, focusing primarily on the rainforest. The skills we are working on are: main idea, cause and effect, and synthesizing information from multiple texts. Students will be writing informational essays based on the rainforest using our mentor texts and additional information gathered from research.

In mathematics, we are wrapping up our unit on multiplying fractions and moving forward we will be focusing our attention on division of fractions.

Our current theme of social studies is Growth and Expansion. We are discussing how the United States' growth and expansion affected different groups of people, including colonists, Native Americans, new immigrants, and African Americans.

In science, students will be wrapping their investigation of the layers of the earth as well as earthquakes and volcanoes. They will be learning about different types of rocks and how they are formed.

TEST PREP

We are now using Ready New York CCLS which is an integrated program of assessment and instruction for English Language Arts. We are using this book in a supplemental way to address specific standards where our students need instruction and practice to prepare for the New York State Exams.

We will be using New York Coach Practice Tests to review content and skills for the New York State Tests for Mathematics. We will review strategies to answer multiple-choice questions, short-response questions, and extended-response questions.

The Fifth Grade Teachers