

Botelle Elementary School

5th Grade Newsletter

April

April Accomplishments

- During the last two weeks of April, we kicked off our final reading and writing units of fifth grade that focus on opinion and argument. During reading, we will be tackling the question of should chocolate milk be served in schools. In writing, students have chosen topics to research, including the use of plastic water bottles, supporting or boycotting zoos and aquariums, competitive sports in elementary and high school, and space vs. underwater exploration.

Our first step was to put our initial opinion aside and suspend judgement until we could research both sides of the issue and prepare an opinion that is supported with evidence. I'm excited to see all of the arguments that are made!

- In science, fifth graders have been learning about different ecosystems and the organisms that inhabit them. Students created posters and diagrams to demonstrate their understanding of food webs, abiotic (nonliving), and biotic (living) components within ecosystems. Students were careful to consider what problems these creatures face and what could be done to help support their own survival and that of their environment.

Once they researched these ecosystems and animal species, they went on to develop their projects and determine how they would choose to present their final work. Students were introduced to various programs such as iMovie, Animoto, and FlipGrid to complete digital projects. They've done an amazing job of adding audio/visual components and their own personalities to these projects. Some students even made movie style trailers to get people interested and excited for what was coming! They have put a lot of time and effort into their work and should be ready for final presentations May 7th.

On the Horizon

SBAC Testing: SBAC testing will take place the final two weeks of May and begins on the 19th. We will take one English language arts test (broken into two days) and two math tests (broken into three days). Additionally, fifth graders take a science test, which will be taken the first week of June.

Before taking each test, students will make goals based on their performance from previous years.

Please consider some of the tips in the Test My Best flipchart attached to the newsletter.

Social Studies: We'll be wrapping up 5th grade social studies by exploring the events that led up to the American Revolution. This will set us up to learn about the American Revolution, the American Civil War and Immigration to America next year in sixth grade.

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Important Dates

5/14: History Day
5/19: English SBAC
5/20: English SBAC
5/21: Geography Bee Finals
5/25: Math SBAC
5/26: Math SBAC
5/27: Math SBAC
5/31: No school - Memorial Day
Date TBD: Always Changing & Growing
Up video and discussion



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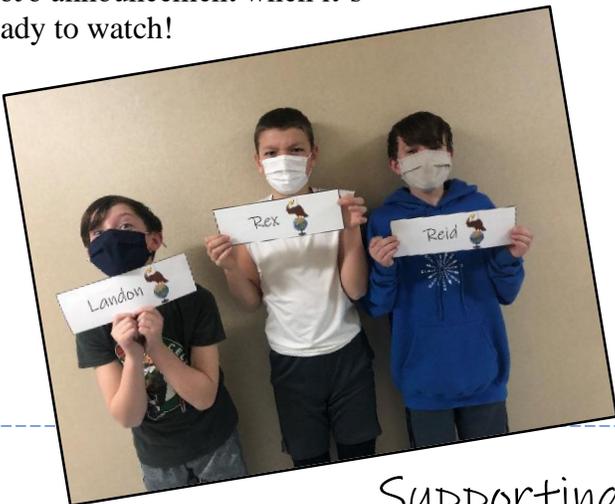
April

On the Horizon Cont.

Health Education: Specially designed for 5th grade girls and boys, the Always Changing & Growing Up Puberty Education Program offers resources to help educators and parents teach the important topics of puberty and development. Students will be broken into a boys group (led by myself) and a girls group (led by Mrs. Dillard) to watch the Always Changing & Growing Up video. While watching, students will have the opportunity to write down questions or concerns and place them in a question box, and after we'll take the time for a discussion using those anonymous questions.

Look for a letter with more detail and a permission slip to come home soon.

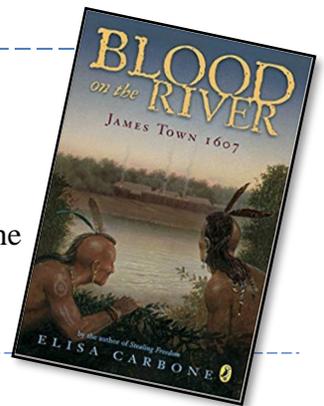
Geo Bee Finals: Our Geo Bee finals are on for Friday May 21st! To watch the GeoBee Championship and cheer on Rex, Reid and Landon, a recorded video will be posted to the school website ASAP - look for a DoJo announcement when it's ready to watch!



Congrats Kayleigh-Raine for earning the SOAR eagle for 5th grade!

Current Read Aloud

Blood on the River by Elisa Carbone



Supporting Your Child at Home

- ▶ Please consider some of the tips in the Test My Best flipchart attached to the newsletter to prepare for SBAC testing.