



# FRIDGE NOTES

Mrs. McBride's Class Family

April 20<sup>th</sup> – April 24<sup>th</sup>

In addition to the reading plans listed to the right, we will also begin the Unit 5 Benchmark Test on Friday. This test will continue the following Monday and Tuesday. The first section involves reading and analyzing texts. As with past tests, we have revised certain portions of the test to match the format of the FSA test your child will be taking next year in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

5<sup>th</sup> grade begins computer-based FSA testing this week. The Media Center and Computer Labs will be closed to accommodate this testing.

## Important Dates

Friday, May 1-  
Progress Reports

## Reading

This week we will learn about determining importance as we read. We will start with a more concrete example by classifying items in a suitcase as "important," "interesting," and "unimportant" for a beach vacation. Just as we try to avoid over packing for a trip, we also have to be careful about which details we pay the most attention to when we read. In order to be considered important, a detail must relate back to the main idea. We will read 3 shorts texts about how animals survive hot weather. We will try to only pull out the important details about the different ways animals stay cool.

For phonics we are focusing on words with the "aw" sound made with the letters *au, aw, al, o and a*.

## Writing

We will continue working on irregular verbs this week. The students were shocked at just how many irregular verbs there are! For young children, adding the normal ending of -ed to many of these words "sounds" correct. When I pick them up from P.E., it is not uncommon to hear something like, "Mrs. McBride, today we runned a mile!" It is definitely a hard habit to break, but the kids are becoming much more aware of these tricky words!

## Math

We have moved from solid figures to polygons. We've been busy classifying polygons according to their attributes (vertices, sides, angles) and we have even learned about the 3 types of angles (right, acute, obtuse). This week will incorporate fractions into our study of shapes. We will explore how we can divide shapes into equal parts and what we call these equal parts (half, thirds, fourths, etc.). By dividing shapes, the students develop a concrete understanding that fractions are a part of a whole, and therefore smaller than the number 1. You can reinforce this skill at home at dinnertime by discussing how you divide one meal into equal parts. You can work together to determine which fraction of the meal each person is eating.

## Science & Social Studies

This Wednesday is Earth Day. We will read a couple of *Scholastic News* articles to learn about the troubles facing our planet and how we can protect the environment.

Our social studies unit on economics will continue this week as we look at the interactions between consumers and producers. The students will see that we act as both consumers AND producers our daily lives! The students will be making and distributing "producer coupons" where they will offer to provide a good or service to a friend or family member. Start dropping your hints now! ☺