



Monday Update

February 26

Order your Teacher Delivery Night pizza for March 8 at www.pjrva.com/schools

Math: This week we will begin our next unit, which covers algebra and variables! (SOL 5.18) We have touched on these concepts already in our Daily 5, and in patterns, when we talked about Input/Output Tables. Typically students do very well with these concepts – it is the “wordier” problems that ask students to match an expression or equation with a given set of scenarios! For example, think of a real word application for the expression $x + 3$. An answer might be: *Mrs. Reid had a number of fidget spinners, and then her students gave her three more.*

Remember! Weekly Reflex Math homework, 20 minutes! If a student has reached 100% fact fluency, please have them log on to Study Island and do their individual Math MAPS Pathway. If computer access or internet connectivity is an issue, please let me know so that we can make other arrangements! Check the online Homework blog regularly! <http://blogs.henrico.k12.va.us/hjreid/weekly-homework/>

Science: This week we start studying Sound (SOL 5.2). This starts our studies of the more abstract concepts of force, motion, and energy, which can be more challenging for

students, since they cannot pick it up and look at it. We *can* experience it and feel it, though. Talk about how sound changes pitch and why. Think together about why different things around your house make higher or lower pitches, and what size and vibration has to do with the pitch of a sound. Another interesting topic is *the Doppler Effect* - why do the pitches of *moving* sounds like an ambulance *seem* to change?? Remember to spend at least 20 minutes reading through and studying their notes, especially the review pages and flashcards from 4th grade. Study Jams or www.solpass.org are other great resources for review!

Invention Convention: As you know, the kids have been working HARD on their inventions. Thank you for all you have done at home. We love hearing about how they have thought so carefully about the challenges and frustrations in order to address those and create a solution. What a wonderful application of their problem-solving skills and design process! To answer a few questions the kids have had:

- Please have them prepare a short schpeal/speech for Thursday. We've called this their "elevator pitch." Bring notecards! They will be presenting their invention to parents, administrators, teachers, 4th graders, and Dr. Hall, Mrs. Cocke (our Brookland School Board Representative), and Mrs. Christopher (Director of Elementary Science Education). We want them to be ready to shine!
- Yes, a tri-fold, poster, or some sort of visual is needed! In the past some students have gotten creative with photos, powerpoints, etc. We can have computers available! Your

child went to the Invention Convention last year, and we've referenced it and reminded them! They saw this event last year!

- Dress nicely! HCPS-TV will be coming!
- On Thursday morning, we will have students take their inventions and posters, etc. directly to the cafeteria/gym. We will have signs up to show which classes are placed at each table. After announcements and attendance, we will come up and get ready. Parents and other special guests will be welcomed in as the doors open at 9am! At 9:30 we will welcome our 4th graders in to tour our convention and see what's in store for next year. By 10am, our 5th graders will be more than ready for their snack and a rest from talking and standing! We will take everything back downstairs, and transition in to the rest of our half day.

Language Arts:

We will be going back to centers, small groups, and will be focusing on figurative language and author's choice this month. We are looking forward to some fun, creative ways to master this skill! Students are also working on a snow day writing assignment, particularly in the drafting and revising stages!

Students have three word study HW's due Friday. Their quiz is also on 03/02!

As always, please encourage your child to read and to find books they are interested in! They can be working on their reading challenges!

Social Studies: Everyone should be regularly studying the 11 states and capitals of the Northeast! Students are completing a variety of projects using different mediums to express their understanding and learn more about this region! Ask your fifth grader what activity has been their favorite! Don't forget to go back and review the 12 Southeast states and capitals in case they pop up again! ;) Mrs. Reid's class has a NE Quiz on March 1! Miss Pastore's class already took theirs!

Important Announcements:

- **Papa John's Teacher Delivery Night is March 8! Please go to www.pjrva.com/schools and pre-order or pizza TODAY! If each class gets a 65% pre-order participation, we earn a pizza party! Plus it is super fun to have your Echo Lake teachers coming to your house **IN COSTUME** to deliver a pizza on March 8! Don't miss out!!**
- **On March 1, middle school Student Course Request forms will be sent home for parent signatures, and are due back by March 14.**
- Please continue to check PowerSchool regularly with your child. Don't forget to click *each* subject's grade, then look for the "missing" symbol

()to know if an assignment has not been completed! **Here is a link with directions for setting up your parent portal on PowerSchool! <http://henricoschools.us/powerschool/>**

- Mark your calendar to attend the Social Media Workshop at Echo Lake on March 27. “Come learn how screen time affects the brain, what are the current social media trends, and some helpful tips on how to manage technology for your child! This exciting Parent Workshop is on 3/27 from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the ELES library on Social Media/Effects of screen time on developing brains. We are inviting 4th & 5th grade parents only!”