



Elmwood's Grade 5 News

October 14th, 2010

Our Latest Unit of Inquiry: Ancient Wisdom

ORGANIZING THEME: WHERE WE ARE IN TIME AND PLACE

DESCRIPTION: An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

SUBJECT FOCUS: linked to Ontario Curriculum Social Studies Unit on Early Civilizations

DURATION: approximately 6 weeks – mid-October until the end of November

CENTRAL IDEA: The human need to prosper has resulted in an evolution of technological advancements.

INQUIRY INTO:

- Basic human needs and early inventions;
- Evolution of technology within systems (writing, medical, farming, architecture);
- Comparison of the systems of two ancient civilizations.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AT HOME:

- Point out any articles in newspapers or magazines relating to early civilizations;
- Point out how technology is changing your own life or your family's life;
- Visit the Museum of Science and Technology to view how technology has progressed and changed;
- Visit the National Gallery to view paintings and compare how different cultures have created art;
- Visit the Museum of Civilization, keeping an eye out for special exhibits that might be related to an ancient civilization.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARENTS:

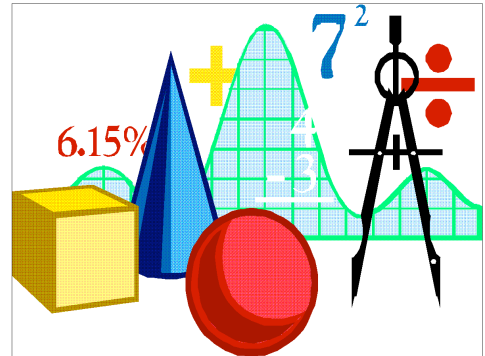
Any parents who have expertise or ideas to share about this unit are asked to email us at aholmes@elmwood.ca or cwiegand@elmwood.ca with suggestions. Ideas will be incorporated when possible, as time permits.

Everyday Mathematics

UNIT #2 – ESTIMATION AND COMPUTATION

Computation is an important part of problem solving. Many of us were taught that there is just one way to do each kind of computation. We may have learned to subtract by borrowing, without realizing that there are many other methods of subtracting numbers.

In Unit 2, students will investigate several methods for adding, subtracting, and multiplying whole numbers and decimals. Throughout the year, students will practice estimation, using calculators as well as learning mental and paper-and-pencil methods for computation. Students will identify which method is the most appropriate for solving a particular problem. From exposure to a variety of methods, they will learn that there are often several ways to accomplish the same task and achieve the same result. Students are encouraged to solve problems using whatever method they find most comfortable.



Computation is usually not the first step in the problem-solving process: one must first decide what numerical data are needed to solve the problem and which operations need to be performed. In this unit, your daughter will continue to develop her problem-solving skills with a special focus on writing and solving equations.

Unit 2 areas of focus:

- To devise an estimation strategy to solve a problem;
- To subtract multi-digit numbers using the **trade-first** and **partial-differences methods**;
- To review and apply vocabulary associated with chance events;
- To make magnitude estimates for products of multi-digit numbers;
- To review and practice the **lattice method** for multiplication of numbers; and
- To understand the relative sizes of 1 million, 1 billion and 1 trillion.

For easy reference, I have copied and included pages from the Student Reference Book, which show an example for addition algorithms (**Partial-Sums Method and Column-Addition Method**), subtraction algorithms (**Trade-First Subtraction Method and Partial Differences Method**), as well as multiplication algorithms (**Partial Products Method and Lattice Method**).

Please note that the unit vocabulary and the **Games and Do-Anytime Activities** associated with this unit are stapled to the back of your daughter's agenda. As always, should you have any questions about the content being covered or ways you can help your daughter with her math, please email us at aholmes@elmwood.ca or cwiegand@elmwood.ca.

Scholastic Catalogues Have Arrived

New issues of Scholastic have arrived, offering you the opportunity to build on your daughter's enthusiasm for school and foster good reading habits at home with new books.

This month, we have included a Science and Math catalogue in the package. Children, girls in particular, are more apt to select fiction books to read; however, in order to practice using a wider range of reading skills, students need to read non-fiction books as well. In order to help your daughter master the skills needed when reading non-fiction books, we recommend that you help her select, or encourage her to select on her own, non-fiction texts to read.

Attached are catalogues that cover a range of ages and reading levels. If you would like to purchase any of the books, simply fill out the forms at the back of the flyers. Please have your daughter return the completed forms with a cheque addressed to Scholastic Canada Ltd. for the total amount no later than Wednesday, October 20th.

These are titles we recommend for Grade 5 students:

From the **Arrow** catalogue

#s 16 – **Who's in Charge?** – Although our Decisions, Decisions unit is coming to an end, this book will continue to encourage your daughter to participate in decision-making activities that affect not only herself, but her greater community.

#19 **National Geographic World Atlas** – A wonderful resource for any student.

#63 **The Red Pyramid** – This book is the start of a new series that is sure to delight all those who enjoyed reading about Percy Jackson.

From the **Science, Math & More!** catalogue:

#21 **Why Pi?** – A book for those who aren't sure that they will need math skills in the "real world."

#31 **Ideas that Changed the World** – A wonderful introduction to inventions that changed the world but may be taken for granted.

#40 **Look Now: The World in Facts, Stats and Graphics** – A fantastic resource for the reader who has a million and one questions.

#42 **National Geographic Kids Almanac 2011** – A terrific read for anyone who likes to know a little bit more about everything: history, geography, animals... fun facts abound in these pages!

46 **Calvin and Hobbes Scientific Progress Goes "Boink"** – This book is a fun way to introduce your daughter to the madcap adventures of Calvin and his tiger friend, Hobbes.

#s 66 and 67 **Clean Earth Pack and Oil Spill Disaster in the Gulf** – Two books that preview upcoming Grade 5 Units of Inquiry

From inside the **Click!** catalogue:

#4 **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing** – A great resource for the student who wants to be an expert touch typist.

#12 **Math Play for Nintendo DS** – This is a perfect game for students who want to improve their math skills.

#19 **Words Rock!** – Games help players build vocabulary and strengthen spelling and grammar skills.