

## Grade 5 Newsletter

15 February 2013

We wish you a very Happy Chinese Year and a prosperous Year of the Snake. We hope you had a lovely break with your family. Many thanks to all the parents who helped make our Chinese New Year celebrations at school last Thursday such a wonderful and enjoyable event. The amazing array of food samples from different regions in China and the talent that was showcased by all the learners in their performances were truly spectacular.

Please note that there have been significant timetable adjustments for all Grade 5 learners so as to provide more focused times for Literacy and Numeracy and opportunities for extended exploration into our Unit of Inquiry topic. A new timetable has been pasted in learners' diaries and an additional copy sent home this week.

The Grade 5 learners had the wonderful opportunity of attending the theatre performance 'Horrible Histories: Ruthless Romans' at the DBS Arts Centre as part of the KidsFest Singapore 2013 last Thursday. All learners had a very educational and enjoyable time. Thank you to Mr Shaun, our librarian, for organizing this outing.



### Unit of Inquiry

Exhibition teams are continuing with their inquiry into natural disasters. Learners are continuing their research and improving their inquiry skills with the use of *Prezi* ably guided by Mr Bailey, our ICT integrator. In working closely with their staff mentors, all exhibition teams have just completed a line of inquiry around the key concept of 'Change' and they will now be moving onto the final key concept of 'Connection'.

Ms Miriam, the exhibition coordinator, has been very passionate in striving for all learners to engage with this inquiry through different mediums. We have been very fortunate to hear from guest speakers who have taken all the learners on an amazing journey with them, sharing their experiences of natural disasters through direct dialogue and photographic evidence. Ms Sue from NEXUS related to learners her terrifying experience of the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand and how the community dealt with the aftermath of that tragedy. Ms Cassandra, a NEXUS parent shared her challenging 2007 flood adventure while she was living in Fiji. The learners were totally captivated and had many interesting questions to ask. We thank both Ms Sue and Ms Cassandra for sharing these experiences with the Grade 5 learners.

## Mathematics

In Mathematics we continue to build on our ability to quickly and accurately recall multiplication facts as this is critical when solving many complex mathematical problems. Learners have also been selecting and applying appropriate strategies for three-digit division. This week we will start to explore the use of averages and how they are applied in the real world.

## English (Language Arts)

The learners are currently completing a draft copy of an information report on a natural disaster of their choice. They have been analysing and collecting information from written texts and online sources. The next stage will be for them to complete a self-edit and peer-edit of the drafts before a final handwritten copy is submitted. Learners will then construct a Google documents presentation of their information reports.

Guided reading groups are continuing to explore and examine their texts through independent and teacher guided activities.

## Homework

Our homework routines will continue throughout this term. Please help your child in reminding them to submit their work each Friday morning. If your child would like some guidance or assistance, please encourage them to speak to their homeroom teacher. In addition, it would be useful for learners to keep up to date with the news from around the world, with special focus on natural disasters. Please also encourage your child to read as much as possible at home on topics that are of interest to them. This can be online, from a book, newspaper, magazine etc.



## Reminders

### **P.E.:**

P.E. has now returned to land based sport. Please remind your child to wear their P.E. kit on both Tuesday and Thursday and to bring along a water bottle, hat and sunscreen.

### **Monday, 18 February:**

Grade 5 field trip to the Science Centre (Earth: Our Untamed Planet/Climate Change). Full school uniform to be worn, please.

### **Thursday, 21 February:**

A brief Grade 5 Exhibition Information meeting will take place for parents/guardians at NEXUS homeroom 5CBA in B block from 8.45am to 9.15am. If you are interested to know more about the Exhibition and the process leading up to it, please do join us.