



# Bulldog News

@ Grant Elementary School

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Character Theme:

**PERSEVERANCE**

is pushing yourself  
to work through challenges  
and obstacles

A cooperative school & home newsletter for the Grant School community.

## 5th Grade ELA: Ms. Fenton

Happy New Year! Fifth grade students are ringing in the new year by diving into the exciting world of nonfiction texts. We are exploring a wide range of interesting topics, including the Titanic and endangered animals. All of these topics will be studied through the lens of text structure, including cause and effect, problem and solution, compare and contrast, and chronological order. Students will be using the lens of text structure to think critically about their reading, paying attention to the author's purpose in choosing that structure. In writing, students continue to explore nonfiction works through the practice of memoir writing. Each student has chosen a special memory from their life to write about. Students are flexing their creative skills to 'show, not tell' a memorable event using lots of description language and details! As always, we continue to improve our writing skills through the study of grammar and phonics. Please encourage your child to read daily for 15-20 minutes and check the Google Classroom for homework assignments. We appreciate your support!

## 5th & 6th Grade Science: Ms. Zambrano

The fifth graders just began to learn about the Human Impacts on Earth's Systems. They are diving into natural resources, renewable resources, and nonrenewable resources. They will investigate mining for minerals and metals, how light is captured for solar energy, and what happens to substances over time such as fruit peels, newspaper, and leaves. Just this week the students used recycled materials to create reimagined dog toys, and will continue to learn about the positive impact of using nonrenewable resources such as used tennis balls and plastic water bottles to create new products. The sixth grade students have just started a unit on the effects of magnetic and electrical energy. They investigated and made observations about the movement of magnets held at different distances and in different positions. The students noted that opposite ends attract and like ends repel. They created models to show how it is possible to move one magnet using a second magnet, without them ever touching. After their experiment, they analyzed the amount of potential and kinetic energy throughout the systems they created. As we continue to learn about these different forms of energy, the students will engage in activities showcasing the roles mechanical and thermal energy play in our daily lives!

## 6th Grade ELA/SS: Mrs. Gerard

In ELA, the sixth graders have started their second go around in Book Clubs. In their last unit, all the students enjoyed reading different books from the same genre. This time, the students are reading a variety of genres- memoirs, historical fiction, and realistic fiction. The students are digging deeper writing post-its to make notes for discussion in their groups. In writing, the students are getting more practice crafting their "SNAP" essays, and continue to write by responding to their independent reading. Lastly, in social studies, the students are learning about all the work that went into writing the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents of all time.



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## **5th & 6th Grade Math: Mr. Morris**

The sixth grade students are currently working on integers and absolute value. The students have expressed that positive numbers are simple to order but negative numbers require you to order the numbers based on their location from zero on a number line. The students find when they draw the number line it becomes much easier to explain how they ordered a series of numbers. The fifth grade students are currently working with creating and solving math equations based on data displayed in a line plot. Line plots require the students to find averages and totals based on the total number of participants in a survey. The students created a class frequency table of how many siblings they have and the information was then turned into a line plot.

## **Small Group Instruction: Mrs. Conversano, Mrs. Alberque & Ms. Raimo**

Mrs. Conversano: In math, fifth grade students are using models and strategies to add and subtract decimals. Essential questions in this unit are: How can sums and differences of decimals be estimated? How is adding and subtracting decimals similar to adding and subtracting whole numbers? Reminder: Nightly homework is 20 minutes IXL skills practice.

Ms. Raimo: Happy New Year! Sixth grade ELA students are beginning to write informative pieces that will also incorporate research skills. They will choose careers as discussed in class from the Independent Read Alouds about “Leadership.” Their findings will be reported in informative brochure-style formats using Google Slides. The students have also been working hard on their reading fluency and comprehension skills.

Ms. Alberque: Fifth grade ELA students have been focusing on reading comprehension. They’ve been practicing strategies to help them find key details in the text to help answer specific questions and support their claims. As we continue in our morphology studies, the students are encouraged to look for base words or roots in words they don’t recognize to help them break the word down into smaller units to try to understand the meaning. These smaller units are called morphemes which are the smallest unit of meaning in a word. So, as we learn the meanings of prefixes, suffixes, base words, and roots, this knowledge will help the students break down the words into morphemes, read, and understand words.