

Mr. Yates' Class Newsletter 3/25/24

For the week of March 25, 2024

Early Release Wednesday

This Wednesday (3/27) will be an early release day. We will dismiss at 1:00 pm. We will have NO specials on Wednesday.

[Click here for a calendar of the six-day rotations for the entire school year.](#)

Thank You Biz Town Volunteers!

A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped at Biz Town! The students had a great experience – we couldn't have done it without you. 😊

AZSci Test – Tuesday 3/26 and Thursday 3/28

Our first round of state testing begins this week with the AZSci science test. This test will be broken up into three 90-minute sessions. The first two 90-minute sessions will be on Tuesday 3/26. The remaining session will be on Thursday 3/28.

Please avoid pulling your fifth grader out of school on these days. Students who are pulled-out of school during AZSci testing are cannot resume their tests later.

Future Testing Dates

These are the dates for the remaining state tests:

April 2 – AASA writing

April 16 – AASA reading/math part 1

April 18 – AASA reading/math part 2

Please avoid pulling out your fifth grader on these days. If a student starts a testing session and then is pulled out of school, they are not permitted to resume the test when they return.

Introducing Genius Hour Projects

On Wednesday, I will be introducing the Genius Hour project to the class.

Genius Hour projects are student-developed, inquiry-based projects. The student creates a question based on a topic he or she is interested in.

Then they work to answer the question and develop a creative way to present their findings.

The Genius Hour project combines both in-class instruction and work at-home assignments that students will be completing in stages.

The students' finished projects will be displayed in the cafeteria on **Monday May 6th from 5:30-6:30** as part of fifth grade's "Genius Night".

First Stage of Genius Hour Project

The first stage of the project is for students to develop a question that their project will be focused on answering.

On Wednesday in class, we'll be developing questions for the Genius Hour project. Your fifth grader will bring home an introduction packet to the Genius Hour project along with a question they've chosen for their project.

For a preview of the packet that students will be bringing home on Wednesday, [please click here.](#)

Parental Approval Needed

Students must have parent approval of the question topic before they begin working on their Genius Hour projects.

Please make sure your fifth grader brings back their Genius Hour project question paper with your approval signature by Wednesday 4/3.

Moving to Canvas

The Canvas app will play a bigger role this quarter. Your fifth grader will be using Canvas extensively in sixth grade (and beyond), so now is a good time to give them more experience with Canvas.

The class website will still be the go-to place for posted assignments, the “what’s due tomorrow” list, and other resources.

Canvas will be primarily used by students this quarter to type or submit on-line assignments. You can access Canvas from any device by going to educational resources on the student portal.

Over the last few weeks, most of my students have been accessing Canvas with few issues. However, please let me know if you have any problems with access at home.



Baby Felix was all tuckered out after Spring Break with Grandpa. I hope you had a great break with your family. 😊

Thanks for reading this week's newsletter! Keep scrolling for additional contact information:

Parent Square

I'll be using Parent Square to send out most of my communications, including this weekly class newsletter.

If you don't have access to Parent Square, [click here to get registered](#).

Note: to register, you must use the email address or phone number you provided to the school as part of your contact information.

Class website

You can find my class website at

<http://bit.ly/yatesclass> or by [clicking here](#).

ParentVue

Logging into ParentVue allows you to check your child's grades 24/7.

Here's the link to ParentVue

<https://www.peoriaunified.org/Page/209>

E-mail

E-mail is the best way to reach me. My address is ryates@pusd11.net or [click here to send me an e-mail](#).