



## February 2010 Newsletter

### Mrs. Ewers and Mr. Kole

**Language Arts:** We are just finishing our science fiction unit in class. In addition to our four novels, some students have also been reading a modified version of the classic War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells. Grammar and spelling lessons continue to be a part of our classes. Mrs. Smith has been working with some of the students to provide additional support in this area. Next week we will be learning about poetry and will have an opportunity to read and write some poems. Mr. Selby will be coming in to our class to work with students. Our next unit will be survival and adventure. Students will read Hatchet, or another novel by Gary Paulsen in class. Book reports and book talks will be due on March 3. Please encourage your child to keep up with independent reading and journal writing at home.

**Social Studies:** We have recently completed our unit of exploration, and are beginning to work on our fifth grade *Countries of Latin America* Project. We will be researching and displaying facts about the countries of Latin America, writing short essays, making maps, and constructing models to highlight this exciting part of the world. We expect to complete this project in time for *What's Happening at CMS* on March 17<sup>th</sup>. A packet of information about this will be sent home next week.

**Math:** We have been very busy in math using our knowledge of basic facts to complete more complicated multiplication and division problems. The students really need to know their basic facts in order to be successful in our future math units. We have been enjoying the multiplication challenge on most Fridays and I would strongly encourage a review of multiplication facts at home.

We have also been working with order of operations and factor trees. Next we will be working with fractions, decimals, percents and ratios. Accelerated math continues to be our weekly homework with some other review packets before quizzes and tests. I am available almost every Tuesday after school and many Thursdays as well; please encourage your child to stay after for help!

**Science:** We have finished up chapter 1 in our astronomy textbook learning about the earth, moon and sun. This quarter we are expanding our exploration and learning more about the solar system. We have also been talking about the science fair. Many students have submitted questions and experiments they'd like to conduct. I am available after school for students who'd like to arrange time for advice or help on their project. I can't wait to see all the hard work during *What's Happening at CMS* on March 17<sup>th</sup>.