

The 2016 school year has gotten off to a great start in Fifth Grade. This year, Mrs. Kimberly Cockerill a long standing teacher in Cumberland County has joined the team. We passionately welcome her to the institution and more specifically, the Fifth Grade Team.

Notwithstanding the interruptions attributed to nature, the team of teachers has been able to keep students focused on the mission ahead. Over the last two months, students have been exploring concepts in Mathematical areas such as place value and expanded form of decimal numbers. Additionally students have studied algebraic expressions. Currently, students are being exposed to a plethora of strategies which can be utilized in solving multiplication problems.

Reading is an area of priority for the team of teachers, thus we have fruitfully engaged the students in strategies that help them to thoroughly comprehend the texts that they read. As students read, they examine the text to make inferences, use context clues to find meanings of words and phrases, as well as understand the relationships and interactions between ideas, events, and characters in the text. This past week has been focused on noting the topics in a text and using it to arrive at the theme- (life lesson) that is presented.

Science is an area that is somewhat different for students as this will be their first year of assessment at the End of Grade Testing period. We are happy to report that our students are excited about Science and have been fervently working to understand concepts related to the water cycle, conservation of matter, mixtures, physical and chemical changes. Of most recent weeks, students have been earnestly exploring experiments, testing the idea that heat transfers through 3 ways, convection, conduction and radiation.

As was initiated last school year, students are set to complete a mandatory benchmark test after each area of instruction is complete. We are pleased to report that our students have shown significant gains on those assessments already completed. In the coming weeks, we are hoping for students to receive even more rewards for the tremendous amounts of effort that they are putting into their studies.