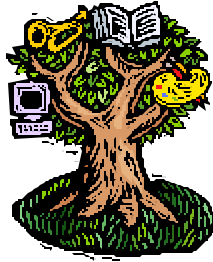


FIFTH GRADE SCIENCE
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL
MRS. JONES



Fifth grade is the first year the students move to a different classroom and have science with a teacher other than their homeroom teacher. It is an exciting year full of transitions.

As an introduction to the curriculum the first part of the year is spent looking at the scientific method, tools for science and how to use them, and practicing observation skills. These concepts are an integral part of the Science curriculum from here on.

The 5th grade curriculum has three major topics to be covered. The first topic is exploring the structure and function of living things through the plant kingdom. It is during this unit that we have our 5th Grade Science field trip. We go to “The Farm” or “The Forest Center” at Cal Expo usually in October. The fifth grade also participates in the “Imagine this...” story writing contest sponsored by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

After we spend time focused on life science we will switch to physical and earth science. The students study weather and climate as a way to explore the earth and physical phenomena. As an introduction time is spent on space and our solar system. Our last major unit in fifth grade is on the human body. We typically cover this in the spring. If time permits, there is an introduction to matter and elements in the world.

Whenever possible we will have “hands on” work. Different units are more conducive to this type of work than others. I also keep in mind the attention span and skills level of fifth graders. In addition to learning about the scientific method, fifth grade begins learning how to write a lab report. An important aspect of science that we will begin to address is to apply the scientific principles we learn, not simply memorize facts.

The text for the fifth grade is in the same series that is used through fourth grade. It is McGraw- Hill Science – California Edition. This book is produced in conjunction with the National Geographic Society. The curriculum in fifth grade is designed to follow the Diocesan Content Standards. This textbook does a good job of addressing those standards. There are currently no on-line resources available for this text.