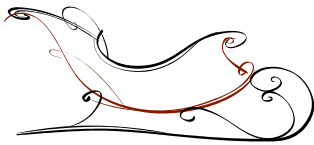


# The Hochlein Herald

December 19,  
2011



## Poetry in Motion

Our Winter Solstice celebration on Wednesday will enable our fifth graders to carry on the ancient tradition of reciting poetry to ring in the winter season. This week we studied not only the science of the solstice (the tilt of the earth) but also the many cultural beliefs connected to this time of year throughout history, and how many are still practiced today. Thank you to the many parents who helped with the breakfast. Encourage your child to practice his or her poem tonight & to perhaps, perform it at a holiday gathering.

## Personal Narratives



Telling an authentic story, in step-by-step fashion takes time, patience and hard work. I am happy to report that most students have now published a polished, well-edited narrative. Their stories exhibit significant growth since earlier in the year. Clear and specific details place the reader in the moment and enrich the overall experience of the story. Your child's voice steps off the page through dialogue and precise word choice. Most impressive of all, their final narratives are in cursive. We will do an author's share on Thursday to honor & share the pages of our lives. Parents are welcome to join us.

## THINK MATH Grids & Graphs

The current math unit in our class involves plotting points on the Cartesian grid, including negative numbers! Students have shown strong spatial skills & overall understanding. After the break, the unit

moves to work with data. Students will be calculating mode, median, mean and range and analyzing how data looks on graphs and what it means in real life. This unit is packed and a fun departure from computation work. Math continues to be an exciting & challenging area of learning this year.

## WEATHER

Students are completing the weather unit this week. Water Cycle projects show both creativity and good understanding. The end unit TEST is tomorrow. Studying is a skill that is still in the progressing stage at this time.

## Books Alive!



## Fantasy

For those who have waited patiently, their time has come. The genre for our Books Alive! program for January is Fantasy, a fifth grade favorite. This includes Science Fiction too. Vacation is a perfect opportunity to delve into an *unbelievable* tale.

Happy Holidays  
Everyone!