

# The Latest from 5 Bim

February 23, 2010

## ISAT's are Here!

On Monday, March 1, we will begin the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT's). There will be 3 days of Reading Tests followed by 3 days of Math tests and then the final day will be a writing test.

While ISAT's are an important test for the schools, I do not teach to the test and we do minimal preparation for these tests. This final week before the test I review the format of the Reading and Math tests so the students are relaxed when the testing begins. I am confident the students will do their best with little stress.

It is important for the students have a good breakfast on these days as well as a healthy snack to bring to school. Our testing begins at 11:00 am each day. I remember my own 3 kids getting excited for the state testing during their years in District 200. I now know it was because it was the only 7 days of the year their mom actually

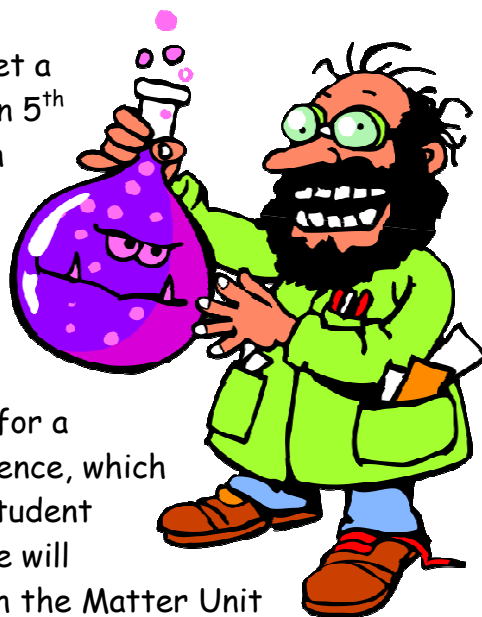
made them a nice breakfast.



**MARCH  
MADNESS**  
The month of

March can get a little crazy in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. With the ISAT's underway we venture into the Matter Unit (chemistry) for a little fun science, which is always a student favorite. We will work through the Matter Unit experiments in class as well as a few to try out at home. Along with the Matter Unit we will be finishing up the Greece Unit all before Spring Break.

Please take a look at the calendar below as some of the previous dates have changed. We will be celebrating Greek Day on **Thursday, March 25** and then heading over to **SciTech on Friday, March 26** before Spring Break. If your child will not be at school on either of these days, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.



## GREEK DAY!



Greek Day is day where the students are Greeks for a Day. They will establish an agora (Greek market place) where they will set up a booth to sell Greek items as well as shop at the other booths. Students will work in groups of 2 or 3 to set up a booth and develop something to sell at the booth. Items can be things like fish (paper or Goldfish variety are fine), Greek Jewelry, Greek food, Greek god trading cards or even sheep (cardboard with cotton balls only please). I will show the students many sample items so they will get the idea. I provide the money for students to make their purchases. I only give a few coins to each student so they quickly learn they have to make money before they can buy something. A pretty important lesson for life! The students will also be presenting Greek Plays on this day for the rest of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. The plays are short and costumes should be very basic. Most can simply wear the toga (bed sheet) that they wear for Greek Day. Remember, the day is meant to be a fun learning day, not a day to stress out parents or students. Please do not feel the need to buy anything for a costume. They will still have Art and PE

that day so the students should come to school prepared with sneakers. We will also be having a Greek Luncheon on this day so we will be sending home a letter asking for a small fee to cover lunch.

On Friday, March 26, The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will head to SciTech Museum for some hands on learning. We plan to leave at 9:30 a.m. and arrive back to school by 2 pm.

The permission slips will be coming home shortly. There may be small fee to help cover the price of buses. Thank you in advance for your support.

Mark  
your  
Calendar

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

Mon, March 1	ISAT Testing Begins
Fri, Feb 26	Institute Day—No School
Tues, March 9	Last Day of ISAT Testing
Thur, March 25	Greek Day (This is a change of Date)
Fri, March 26	Field Trip to SciTech Museum. (This is a change of date)
Mar 29-April 2	Spring Break—NO School