



# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 7, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's already October, and we are well into our curriculum. The Third Grade Team appreciates all of your support and interest in our instructional program. We look forward to working in a partnership with our third grade parents throughout this school year.

Please continue to review your child's homework assignment book each night, as well as the graded papers and notices that are sent home on Wednesdays in their "Wednesday Folder." Each night, be sure that your child completes his/her homework and that you have signed the assignment book on the appropriate day. Please do NOT sign the book without checking their work. It is important to establish lifelong study habits early on. We are very enthusiastic about each student having a successful third grade year. Your cooperation and support is essential.

In these first weeks of school, we have been very busy with a variety of learning activities. Third graders are extremely excited about learning and practicing new cursive letters. Students have discussed ways to choose books that are not too challenging, not too easy, but "just right" for their reading ability. Students have already begun to read leveled texts and listened to read-alouds during reading time and in the other content areas.

Students have been practicing reading strategies, such as making connections and identifying story elements. We have also been using text features to help us better understand non-fiction text. These are some things that good readers do to enhance and extend their comprehension.

Writer's Notebooks are a hit! Every student has their own notebook for writing with artifacts/decorations that make them their own. We began by focusing on the first writing trait - Ideas - from the 6+1 writing traits. We have gone on memory walks and recorded detailed observations. Teachers conduct writing conferences to collect information and drive instruction. We are really enjoying these writing experiences.

Our first science unit is Crime Lab Chemistry. All of the students have begun fingerprinting. After modeling and practicing how to create fingerprints, students will have the opportunity to use this talent to solve crimes. They are reading mysteries and becoming involved in collecting evidence...What Fun!

In math, students have been busy working with place value. We are also rounding numbers to estimate sums and differences. Please practice these concepts at home whenever possible.

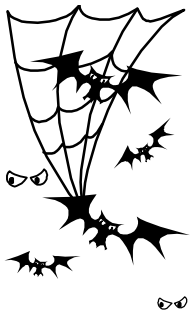


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As you can see, our third graders have been very busy. We have been having a great time getting to know your children and seeing them get excited about learning. We look forward to a wonderful and successful school year!

Sincerely,  
The Third Grade Team  
Mrs. Geraci  
Mrs. Farina  
Mrs. Kwon  
Mrs. Robeson  
Mrs. Walker



## Halloween News

Halloween is fast approaching! In order to begin planning our festivities, **we are asking each student to bring in \$4.00 cash.** Half of the money will be used for the Halloween party, and the other half will be used for the Valentine's Day party in February. We would really appreciate the \$4.00 in cash, as it makes it easier to distribute the money to our room parents. Please send the cash in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it. If your child does not participate in Halloween or Valentine's Day festivities, please let your child's teacher know.

Thank you!



## DATES AND EVENTS

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

Maryland State Teachers  
Convention  
No School for Students

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>

Mad Science Crime Lab  
In-House Field Trip  
(Please send \$6.00 by October 15<sup>th</sup>  
to cover the cost of this activity)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

First Marking Period Ends  
Halloween Parade and Party

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

No School for Students -  
Report Card Prep/Planning

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Early Release Days -  
Parent Conferences