



The Owl Post

The newsletter for Third Year Hogwarts Students



October 2009

Reading



We are continuing to work with fiction books as we focus on the elements of a story.

Following up our study of characters, we are turning now to setting, problem/solution and story titles.

Toward the end of the quarter, we will begin working with non-fiction texts.

Finally, a word about reading grades...

Reading grades are based on written assessments developed for books students read in their guided reading groups. These assessments give students the opportunity to apply the knowledge and strategies taught in both fiction and nonfiction texts. Our monthly *Owl Post* newsletter will keep you informed about the focus of our reading instruction.

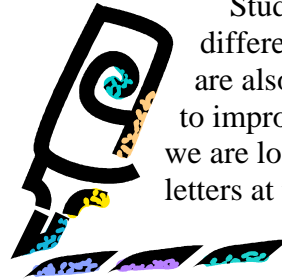
There will be nothing to “study” at home to prepare for these periodic assessments. However, you can facilitate your child’s use of newly learned knowledge and strategies by asking him/her questions. For example:

- Tell me about the main character. What character traits does he/she have? How do you know?
- How did the main character change throughout the story?
- What is the setting of the story?
- What sensory images does the author use to describe the setting?
- Is the setting important to the story, or could the story take place in a different setting?
- What was the main problem in the story? How was it solved? How would *you* have solved the problem?
- Can you re-tell your story?
- Do you like the story’s title? Why?

Upcoming Events

Oct 2	Early Release Day, 12:55pm dismissal
Oct. 12	Open House for parents (9:30 - 12)
Oct. 16	No school for students
Oct. 30	Halloween Party End of first grading period
Nov. 2	No school for students

Writing



Students have been focusing on different parts of a paragraph. They are also learning different strategies to improve their writing. Right now we are looking closely for capital letters at the beginning of sentences and punctuation at the end of sentences. Students will

apply their knowledge of paragraphs to the quarter 1 purpose of writing for personal expression..

Vocabulary/Word Work

We are continuing to practice vocabulary and word work weekly through a combination of Wordly Wise and word manipulation. Students are given 10 new words each week and a weekly test. High frequency words and other word patterns are practiced in class.

Math

Please refer to your unit newsletters for math information. Also remember to save quizzes and tests that are sent home. At the end of every unit there is a summative assessment that covers the whole unit and these papers can be helpful when preparing for the assessment.

We are also continuing our basic math fact program. Take time to review your child's basic facts, as they are needed to be successful in math.

Science

In science we will start taking fingerprints. Students will have fun examining their fingerprints and trying to figure out their fingerprint pattern. Ask him/her to identify your fingerprint pattern. We will also learn about chromatography and apply our knowledge to solve mock crimes. We will have a visiting forensic specialist on October 8 to introduce many of our crime lab concepts.

Social Studies

We are beginning Unit 1 of our social studies curriculum. "Economics and Geography Where You Live" teaches students about economic resources as we explore how humans interact with their environment to satisfy their wants and needs.

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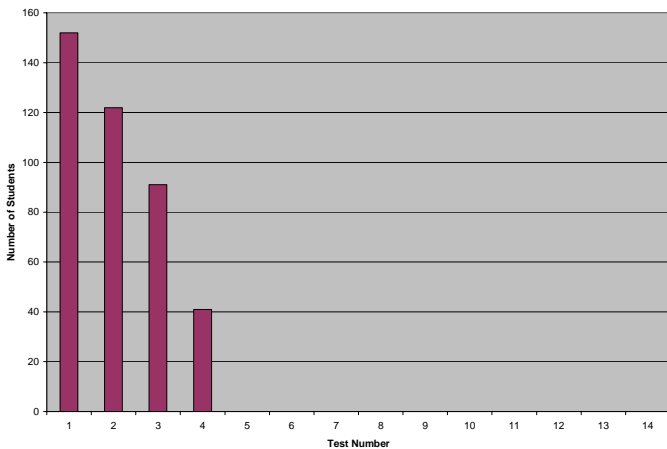
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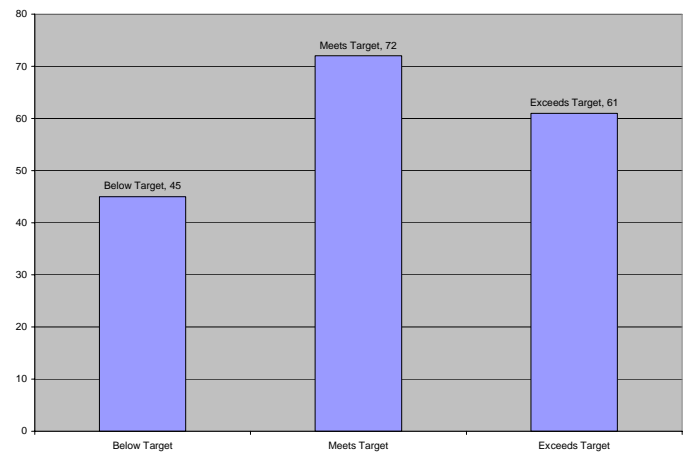
Data Update

Students have completed their initial reading assessments. Third grade assigns reading groups based on data from 2nd grade as well as these 3rd grade pre-assessments. Our goal is to maximize third grade performance by increasing proficiency of those students who are not yet meeting target and advancing those students who are already meeting targets. Students already scoring advanced will be participating in advanced reading programs.

Basic Facts Progress



By the Numbers



Meets Target	=	72
Exceeds Target	=	61
Below Target	=	45