

# The Owl Post

The newsletter for Third Year Hogwarts Students

August/September 2009



## Back to School Night



Please join us Thursday night  
September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. for  
Back to School Night.

Presentations will begin promptly in your child's homeroom. Third grade curriculum will be discussed. This is an important time to learn about what your child will be doing in third grade. You will have an opportunity to meet your child's math teacher and sign up for a parent/teacher conference in November.

*As a reminder, Back to School Night is for parents only. Please leave young children at home.*

## Reading

We'll be busy getting to know your children as readers and writers. We are conferencing with students individually to assess their reading skills, as well as to learn about the types of books that most interest them.

Children will use before, during and after reading strategies to help them remember and understand books that are "just right" for them. (When your child chooses a book at home, ask if it's "just right.")

This month, we'll focus on the elements of a story (characters, setting, problem, events, solution, ending), retelling a story and making connections.

We are primarily reading realistic fiction to demonstrate and practice these concepts. Toward the end of the quarter, we'll turn our attention to the non-fiction genre.

Meanwhile, we will continue to conference individually with each child to help us determine guided reading groups.

## Upcoming Events

<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>6:30pm</b> <b>Back to School Night</b> Report to your child's homeroom
<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Holiday</b>
<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>Holiday</b>

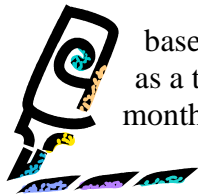
## MAP-R Testing

Also during September students will take the MAP-R reading test. This test, which is given to third, fourth and fifth graders, is designed to measure a student's reading progress over time. It is administered on the computer. The test is personalized for each student in that it automatically adjusts the difficulty of the next question depending on whether or not the student answered the previous question correctly. This test will be given three times this year in September, January and May. It will be exciting to see how each student grows in reading.

## Vocabulary/Word Work

We will practice vocabulary and word work weekly through a combination of Wordly Wise, word manipulation and spelling tests. Students will be given 10 new vocabulary words every other week and a test. Vocabulary will alternate with spelling practice. High frequency words and other word patterns will be practiced in class and at home.

## Writing



Everyone will be given a baseline assessment that will be used as a take off point for the quarter. This month students will be learning how to compose various types of sentences. They will practice using correct sentence structure and begin writing paragraphs with correct paragraph structure.

## Math

We will regroup for math the second day of day school based on students' second grade performance, state test scores, and input from last year's second-grade teachers. Please see the separate Unit 1 Math Newsletter coming home soon by your child's math teacher for more information. Everyone will begin the basic facts program the first week of September so please help make sure that students take some time to practice their basic facts at home.

## Science

We will be learning and applying the elements of a well-designed investigation. These include: hypothesis (a prediction); experimental variables (things that change during the investigation); controlled variables (what *doesn't* change); data collection (recorded in a table or chart); multiple/repeated trials (repeating the experiment at least three times); and conclusion (a statement about the results of the investigation). Crime Lab Chemistry is the first unit in science.

## Social Studies

We'll begin our social studies unit by discussing economic resources as we explore how humans interact with their environment to satisfy their wants and needs.

## Forms, Forms, Forms!

Please check your child's backpack and homework folders daily for important forms that must be filled out and sent back to school. We appreciate your cooperation in sending these forms in as soon as possible as there is a lot of information to collect at the beginning of each year. Please also remember to pay your child's teacher for their agenda.

## Reminders

As a reminder, please check in at the front office any time you visit the school. When you are picking up your child early, you will need to sign him/her out in the office. Your child's teacher will then be called to send your child to the office for dismissal.

*Please note:* Our instruction continues until 3:15 pm. If you arrive a little early, we ask you to please wait until the regular end-of-day dismissal bell to pick up your child.

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