

Third Grade News



Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

October 2017

Here are some of the topics we have been working on in third grade, as well our units of study for the month of October.

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

In the month of October, students will be reading informational text. Students will locate and use text features to better understand a text. Students will explain how text, online features, and search tools clarify information relevant to a topic and use knowledge gained from illustrations and the words to demonstrate understanding of a text. Students will identify main ideas from explicitly stated or implied information. They will determine main ideas and identify the relationships between ideas. They make connections between ideas to describe the scientific concepts of motion, integrating science into the reading curriculum. At the end of the month, students will be comparing ideas across texts and determine relevant points in Health Education topics.

Math

Beginning in October and continuing into marking period 2, students will be applying the various addition and subtraction strategies learned in September to solve 2-step addition and subtraction problems and assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies. Instruction will then focus on students building their repertoire of strategies for learning multiplication and division facts. Students develop an understanding of the meanings of

multiplication and division of whole numbers through tasks and problems involving equal-sized groups, arrays, and area models. Students use increasingly sophisticated strategies such as the properties of operations and the relationship between multiplication and division to solve multiplication and division problems involving single-digit factors. The emphasis is on applying multiple strategies rather than simply memorizing without meaning. Students will also solve a variety of problems involving the four operations and represent the problems using equations with a letter for the unknown quantity. A spectrum of 1-step and 2-step word problems of varying complexity levels are purposefully incorporated throughout the year as new learning is developed and applied.

Science

Physical science study of force and motion continues through marking period 1. The students will create a pendulum and conduct tests on the pendulum while creating predictions and observing the machine. They will provide evidence of a predictable future motion of an object. Students will then use the pendulum that they made in the previous lesson as a tool to strike balls of different weights in order to investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces. Students will be using the engineering design process to create a car. Students will identify the criteria and the constraints of the car. Students will design an investigation to compare and contrast the motion of their car as its mass increases by adding washers. They

will also make predictions about the motion of their cars as they slide down a ramp. Students will measure distance, time and speed to use as comparison data. Students will use their pendulum again to conduct observations about the motion of their cars as they are struck by the pendulum. As they increase the mass of their pendulum with washers, they will make predictions about the motion of their cars.

Social Studies

In October, students explore the basic functions of governments: creating structure through laws, enforcing laws and interpreting laws. Students examine the selection process and role of local government leaders today in Montgomery County and in the past government of the Roman Republic. Students will enhance their learning by collecting and analyzing information from images and text to determine how and why individuals, businesses, and governments provide goods and services. Students learn how goods and services are paid for by taxes today in the United States and long ago in the Roman Republic. We will finish out the marking period with a focus upon Health Education concepts and topics of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs. Students draw conclusions about the appropriate uses of prescription and over-the counter drugs. Tobacco products, contents and its effects on the body are analyzed to promote responsible choices. Caffeine is introduced as a drug in Grade 3. Students analyze the effects of caffeine on lifelong wellness.

Other

Please feel free to email your child's teacher with any questions, comments or concerns you may have.

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Wishing Well

The third grade teachers greatly appreciate any donations that you would like to send in. Below are a few suggestions:

- Cardstock
- Baggies
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Tissues
- Paper plates
- Black expo markers
- Paper Towels

Important Dates

October 4 Map M Testing

October 6 Early Release Day for Students

October 9 Open House

October 10 Interims go home

October 11 Map R Testing

October 24 National History Museum

October 26 Individual Student Pictures

October 31 Halloween Parade and Party
@2:20 pm

