

December 2011/January 2012

Grade 3 Newsletter



Dear Families,

- **Jan 6th- Reading Logs due-Please ask your teacher if you need another copy!**
- **No School January 16th and January 23**
- **Third Quarter begins January 24**

Here is a brief update about what we have been up to in class!

Reading

We have been reading and studying folktales and will briefly discuss fables and the morals they teach. We will also begin Reading to Perform a Task and will focus on following directions and making things with our hands. We are continuing to prepare for the MSA test by writing responses (BCRs) to what we read and discussing what “good” answers are.

Independent Reading

Students should continue reading 3 “Just Right” books per month and filling out Reading Logs to turn in. Each month the Reading Log format will change but students should turn in their forms on/before the due date.

Writing

Students are continuing to Write to Inform and will work on writing directions to games and procedures.

Science

We will begin our Crime Lab Chemistry unit after winter break.

Social Studies

We have been focusing on geographic characteristics, including natural and manmade resources. We are working on mapping skills (compass directions, reading a grid, using a key) and are identifying many economic ideas. We have read about opportunity cost, goods and services/resources and the production equation.

Mrs. Boyar's/Carroll's Math Class

I can't believe that we are leaving Unit 2 and heading on into Unit 3. The subjects explored in Unit 3 are: Decimal Fractions using Place Value concepts, Comparing and Ordering, Estimation, Addition and Subtraction and Money Measurement; Basic Concepts of Basic Fractions, Comparing and Ordering, Improper fractions and Mixed Numbers, Addition and Subtraction and Multiplying. Probability will be explored with Identifying Outcomes, Organizing Outcomes, and Expressing Outcomes.

Please, please continue to encourage review of basic math facts including multiplication and division. The math program is cumulative and the more fluently and easily the students comprehend their basic facts, the easier it will be to comprehend the more involved concepts they need to learn. Just a head's up, Multiplication and Division is revisited as a unit later on in the year.

Mr. Vigna and Mrs. Lehmkuhl's Math Classes

Mr. Vigna and Mrs. Lehmkuhl's classes are in unit 3 in Math. During this Unit the students began the unit by investigating various models and structures for multiplication and division. The students have worked with arrays and comparison problem structures building on their understanding of concrete models.

During the second part of the unit, students will develop strategies for learning basic multiplication and division facts. By the end of the unit, students should demonstrate mastery of the multiplication facts 0, 1, 2, 5, and 10 as well as being able to apply a variety of strategies for other basic facts.

Ideas to do at home

Please continue working on reading logs each month. Discussing what your child is reading with them will help comprehension and interest level. The new Reading Log will be sent home this Friday, January 6th.

Working on math facts (addition/subtraction and even multiplication) will help your child remember their facts throughout the year. Spending 5-10 minutes a night will really help.

Students should be practicing recorders for 10 minutes a night. They also need to remember recorders and music the day of Music class.

BCR Examples

Please see the attached examples third grade BCR's. These are examples of what a "3" looks like on the MSA which is equivalent to an "ES" on the report card.

Homework Reminders

Students should be bringing home homework every night.

Monday-Thursday Spelling, Math, and reading a minimum of 20 minutes. Please note that if there is an assessment a student may not bring home math homework.

Throughout the week: As students read, they should complete the monthly Reading Log. The reading log is due at the end of the month. The November/December Reading log is due on January 5th due to the holidays.

Great News!

Mrs. Boyar delivered a healthy baby boy, on November 30th!!!

Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team