

# 3RD GRADE NEWS

North Chevy Chase Elementary School

October 2011

## Important Curriculum News



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*We're back in the swing of things!*

## Writing News

In writing, students will begin to write personal narratives based on important events in their lives. Students will follow the writing process to create a well-structured story full of details using their five senses.

During writing, students will also be working on Spelling. Each child has a differentiated list of 14 words to study weekly for the test each Friday. Please work with your child at home to ensure that they are successful with their spelling each week!

## 3rd Grade Reading

This month in reading, we will continue to look take a closer look at the elements of realistic fiction. We will take what we learned about characters, setting, problem, solution, and story endings to get a better understanding of the entire plot structure of various fictional texts.

This month we will also be transitioning from focusing on reading for literary experience to reading to be

informed. The students will be identifying text features of various informational texts and use them to strengthen their understanding. Comprehension strategies for reading to be informed will include setting a purpose for reading, linking background knowledge to new information, asking questions to clarify, answer, or analyze, determining important information, and formulating a main idea from the text. We will

also be looking at how informational texts are organized in specific ways to help readers gather facts efficiently.

October's reading project will be a poetry presentation, which will be due Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. We encourage the use of props to help make the presentation more intriguing.

Happy Reading!

## Helpful Hints:

-Students received **Agenda Books** at the beginning of the school year. If for some reason you have not already done so, please send in 4 dollars to cover the cost.

- A field trip information packet went home at **Back to School Night**. The permission slip was due on **September 30th**. If you have not already done so, please return this to your teacher immediately. Our first trip will be on **October 7th**.

-Please review the assignments listed in the agenda book each night and sign that you have seen it.

- Please remember to check the **Friday Folder** for weekly home-school communication!

## Science News

In science, students observed various types of dry and soaked beans. Through doing this, students were able to identify the important parts of a bean/seed, and began making connections about its relationship to large plants. Later, students planted beans in classroom window “greenhouses” in order to gain a better sense of their growth and development.

In addition to this, students have planted their very own brassica plants in the NCC grow-lab. Over the next few weeks, students will thin and pollinate their plants in order to observe the complete life cycle of their plant.

Be sure to ask your little scientist about their daily plant observations!



### **Social Studies News:**

**In social studies, the students will continue to examine geographic characteristics in the community. We will be looking at the natural features and human-made features outside of our school and home windows. This will lead into our study of geography around the United States and the world.**

## Math News

### Math 4

Using learned knowledge, students in Mrs. Dingle’s afternoon Math class will choose the appropriate graph for the given set of data. Graph types include the bar and double bar graph, line plot, line graph, pictograph, and stem and leaf plot. Students will discuss how changing the scale of a graph will affect the appearance and outcome of the graph. Additionally, manipulatives such as snap cubes will be used by students to determine the mean score of a given set of data. Other types of central tendency focused upon will include median, mode, and range.

### Math 3

Students in Ms. Wong’s and Mrs. Dingle’s Math classes have continued to work with place value, particularly rounding to the nearest 10, 100, and 1000 and ordering numbers from least to greatest. Additionally, students have been adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers using base ten blocks, as well as estimating the sums of those numbers.

### **Teacher Contact Information**

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