

3RD GRADE NEWS

North Chevy Chase Elementary School

January 2012

Important Curriculum News



Walking in a Winter Wonderland

3rd Grade Reading

We hope you all had a nice, relaxing Winter Break and had some time to curl up with a good book. To end the second marking period, we will be wrapping up our focus on folktales. Some of the skills we will be working on are making inferences, determining theme, sequencing, summarizing, and comparing versions of the same tale (ask your child which ones he or she favored). Toward the end of the month, we will be

transitioning from folktales to fables. It's always fun to try to guess the lessons learned in the fables. Other skills and strategies that we will work on in class are relating the title to the message in the text, recognizing fact and opinion, identifying point of view, and determining mood. It's a busy month!

This book project for January is to create a poster advertising

an award winning book. The purpose of the presentation will be to persuade the audience to read the book as well. Please have your child tell his or her teacher the chosen book by Tuesday, January 10th. The poster and presentation are due on Tuesday, January 31st.

Writing News

In Writing this month, the third grade students will continue to research information about an interesting topic of their choice and write a story to inform readers of what they now know through their research. We will look at the importance of finding accurate, factual information via reliable resources. By following the writing process, the students will produce a well-written informative piece demonstrating understanding about a topic to share with their peers.

Helpful Hints:

-3rd grade students will be taking the Winter MAP-R test this month. Make sure your child is reading for at least 15 minutes at night. Ask questions about what they've read to check for comprehension.

-Please continue to review multiplication facts with your child!

-Remember to check the Friday Folder for weekly home/school communication.

-It's the winter season! Thank you to those parents who have already donated tissues and/or Clorox wipes- it's helping to keep our classroom germ-free! Any additional tissue donations would be appreciated.

-Thank you for helping your child remember to bring paper and at least three sharpened pencils to school every day.

Science News

Einstein once said that “the whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking”. Your child has spent the last few weeks honing observation skills by closely observing patterns as they occur naturally. Students extended these observation skills into the crime lab unit by observing their own fingerprints and the fingerprints of their peers. Students learned how to record a set of prints, observe their natural patterns, and determine how to categorize them into one of three categories. In the next half of the crime lab unit, students will begin their investigation of chromatography and examine how it applies to their everyday life.



Social Studies News:

In Social Studies, we will look at how society changes due to technology and the availability of resources. A major part of the improvements made in technology is through the modernization of transportation. We will also discuss the rights and responsibilities citizens have and how they can impact a society.

Math News

In Math 3, students are developing an enduring understanding that multiplication and division are inverse operations. Some ongoing questions that students continue to focus upon in Unit 3 include discovering the relationships between factors, products, and quotients, how models for multiplication can be used to divide, and what strategies can be used to learn basic multiplication and division facts.

In Math 4, students' enduring understanding for concept development is that both common and decimal fractions represent fractional parts. Essential questions students are focusing upon include how numbers representing fractional parts are compared, the similarities and differences between common and decimal fractions, how models are used to show fractional parts that are combined or separated, and what strategies are used to solve estimation problems with common and decimal fractions.

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