

Third Grade News

October 2009



Upcoming Dates and Events

10/2 Half day
10/5-10/9 Scholastic Book Fair; interims sent home (10/5)
10/16 No School
10/26- 9:30 Feeney
 10:30 Shull/Bannon
 11:30 Yoo
10/27- 9:30 Maloney
 10:30 Calkin
10/ 30 First marking period ends
10/ 30 Halloween parade and party

Teacher and Student Jobs

Reading

Our students are beginning to learn about BCR's this month. A BCR or Brief Constructed Response requires students to read a passage, answer a question and use evidence from the passage to support their

answer. "Go for a 4" is a favorite slogan we use to encourage students to try their best and use feedback to make improvements when needed.

At the end of September students took the MAP-R assessment in the computer lab. This was the first of three times they will take the test. The results will be discussed at teacher/parent conferences in November.

Writing

Students have been learning the difference between "telling and showing" in writing. We begin with an idea and develop it into an interesting piece of writing. We focus on the six traits of writing (ideas, voice, conventions, word choice, sentence fluency, and organization of ideas). This month we will be focusing primarily on ideas and organization.

Math

Math Unit One continues through the end of October. Students are extending their place value knowledge into the millions! We utilize our quiz data by displaying it in line graphs and

analyzing trends. Many word problems involve multiple steps such as making reasonable estimates and then subtracting to find the difference. In Ms. Maloney's math class, the students have been learning about central tendency (data analysis) through a rap song called "Data Analysis". The students will be completing Unit 1 by learning about geometry concepts such as circumference, radius, and diameter. Note: We will be switching math classes now at 10:00-11:25 (the original time was 9:30-10:50). By doing this, we feel the students will have more time in the mornings to complete their daily routines and morning work.

Social Studies

Our students have learned about human, capital and natural resources. We will be learning about the differences between wants and needs, as well as goods and services and how they relate to our everyday lives.

Science

Students will be applying their crime solving techniques soon in a case they will be given to solve by using their knowledge about the three types of fingerprints-arch, loop, and whorl.

Friendly reminder- please send in the Mad Science permission slip and money with your child to give to their teacher as the Mad Science sessions are approaching! Please see above the dates for your child's Mad Science session.

Parent Jobs

Please continue to make sure your child gets plenty of rest every night and has a good breakfast every day. Please call the school if you have questions about the breakfast menu. It's important to stay healthy during the change of seasons.

The Learning Skills Folders are quickly becoming a great means of communication between home and school. Continue to review it, initial and send back to school the next day.

Please take a few minutes to review your student's completed homework and initial their assignment notebook nightly.

When reviewing math homework, it is helpful for you to ask your child to explain the steps they follow to complete each problem. If they are not getting the correct answer, you can pinpoint the difficulty and correct it or send your child's teacher a note

regarding the process your child is going through. This will help guide our instruction in class.

At this point in the 1st quarter, your child should have read and discussed 3 of the 6 books to fulfill their reading requirements. Remember, book talks are a wonderful way for you and your child to discover new types of literature.

When sending in cash for your child's cafeteria account, please send it in a sealed envelope with your child's name, account number and amount written on it.

Be sure to sign up for your conference on November 11th or 12th. We will be contacting you as the time approaches.

Thank you!

The Third Grade Team
Ms. Bannon/Mrs. Shull
Mrs. Feeney
Ms. Calkin
Mrs. Yoo
Ms. Maloney