

# Third Grade News

January 2012

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## Upcoming Dates and Events

1/3 School Resumes  
1/4 9:30-10:30 Shull MAP-R  
1/9 9:30-10:30 Calkin MAP-R  
1/11 9:30-10:30 Maloney MAP-R  
1/12 9:30-11:15 Gr 3 GT Testing (by invitation only)  
1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL  
1/17 6:30 Town Hall Meeting  
1/18 9:30-10:30 Yoo MAP-R  
1/19 9:30-10:30 Feeney MAP-R  
1/20 6:30 PTA Game Night  
Second Marking Period Ends  
1/23 Professional Day  
1/24 Third Marking Period Begins

## Teacher and Student Jobs

### Reading

Our students are using the "before, during and after reading" strategy to help them understand any text they are reading. We are focusing on the inference skills, such as making predictions and drawing conclusions. We are learning how to look for key words and phrases to help us determine our conclusions and predictions. We are also working on our folktales unit in which the students use their knowledge of folktale characteristics to

determine what is classified as a folktale.

### Writing

We are writing to inform a specific audience using voice and the other five traits of writing. By reading National Geographic magazines, we will create brochures that portray various animals and their special "talents".

### Math

Students are learning multiplication and division concepts! Please make sure that you are practicing with your child daily so they may be able to solve problems quickly and more efficiently. This unit will be ending in the next three weeks and then students will take their unit 3 assessments. They will begin the next unit on geometry. In Ms. Maloney's class, students have started their unit 3 concepts that will cover fractions, decimals, money, and probability.

### Social Studies

Students are learning about geographical characteristics and

how these characteristics relate to rural, suburban, and urban communities. Later, we will be studying about transportation systems and elements and learn how transportation effects the environment.

### **Science**

We are exploring sound and learning how sound travels, what causes sound, and the difference between pitch and volume.

### **MSA**

It will soon be time for the students to take their MSA (Maryland State Assessment). The dates for the assessment are as follows: Reading MSA- March 12 and March 13; Math MSA- March 16 and March 19. We will be preparing the students by having double math twice a week. The math switch will begin on January 5 and will be every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:15-3:10PM. Further information about the MSA will be coming in the February Newsletter.

### **Parent Jobs**

Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher via assignment notebooks, Learning Skills Folders and email.

Students will be bringing their Data Notebooks home soon.

Please check over each graph page your child has charted and read their thoughts on the Reflection page. Your response is incredibly important to your child and to their teacher.

The third grade classes are in need of your help! We are beginning to run out of supplies necessary to our classrooms. We would appreciate it if you could please send in hand sanitizers, soap, and pencils as our storage is starting to deplete. We could also use more Clorox wipes to help keep our classrooms clean!

We can't believe that 2011 is over! It has been a fun first half of the year and we look forward to further educating your child and ensuring his/her success!

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