

THE THIRD GRADE TIMES DISPATCH

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

WHAT'S UP IN READING?

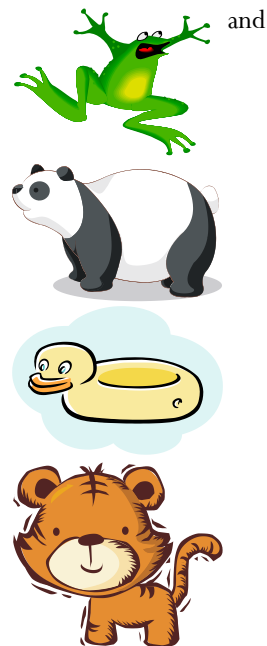
Our beginning focus is in the genre of Realistic Fiction. Characters, events and settings in this genre reflect our lives. We believe that these people could live near us. The places seem familiar. The events seem true to life. While some things may seem broadly drawn, they are not unrealistic or fantastic.

All classes have a nine week plan of study in reading. Small group work is an essential part of this plan. Groups explore novels and compose written responses in a variety of formats. It is important to know that reading is consistently and constantly being assessed using formal and informal

tools. Assessments can be on the computer, on paper or done orally.

You can help your child with this by helping them to choose independent reading that is realistic fiction. Make sure you are making connections to movies and television shows that contain realistic elements. There are many excellent magazines and websites that mix both fiction and non-fiction for independent reading practice.

By the end of this quarter, the expectation is that all students will have read at least two novels in class under the guidance of the teacher to help them build their reading experience



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Remember to check with your child regarding their spelling city word lists and their Study Island password and log on. Using the computer to enrich and extend their learning is an essential part of increasing their academic stamina and their intellectual development.
- Please check and sign the agenda book each evening!

Dates to remember!

September 28th –half day for students; Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown

Birthday Club - Friday, September 30th @2:45 in classrooms

Science Projects—
“Building a Better Bird’s Nest” due for all students the week of September 26. The last day to turn in a bird’s nest will be Friday of that week. No late projects will be accepted.

Please make sure you have sent in the \$16.00 to cover our school year fees.

MATH—UNIT ONE

The Unit One math letter came home with your child earlier this month. Algebra, patterns, statistics and number sense/operations are the grade level focus. All classes and students are given appropriate grade level instruction with review and acceleration/enrichment opportunities as determined by student performance.

Your child must be able to

recognize, define and expand patterns using numbers. Patterns must show information that is increasing or decreasing with students being able to move backwards or forwards in the determined pattern.

Addition and subtraction with regrouping is also part of this unit. Students must be able to work with numbers several place values in length.

Reading and constructing a variety of graphs is an additional focus. Students must be able to read graphs, fill in missing information to complete a graph and construct a graph with all essential labels and elements.

Please refer to the unit maps attached to the parent letter for additional information or objective sequence.

MRS. COLL MRS. JORDAN MS.
MUKRI MRS. ROTTER
GRADE THREE
SHERWOOD ES

SOCIAL STUDIES

WE ARE STUDYING MAPS.
WE WILL LEARNING
ABOUT THEIR ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS.

WE WILL BE EXPLORING
WHAT RESOURCES ARE.
HOW DO WE DETERMINE
WHAT WE NEED? HOW
DO WE GET IT? WHAT IS
THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HUMAN,
NATURAL AND CAPITAL
RESOURCES?

Rapid Research

This is a non-fiction, informational reading program designed to involve a research model (AGOPPE) that allows students to select, explore and present information on a variety of topics. This first quarter will have a focus on the natural world using a small group selected animal to research. With this program, students begin to develop note taking skills, evaluate information (important versus interesting details) and use of text features to create exciting and useful posters or displays. The work for the first project will be done in class.

Science—Crime Lab Chemistry

We are all about patterns, seeking evidence and learning how to explore the scientific method to understand the world around us. Our bird's nest project will help us to problem solve how to create something that nature seems to make so easily. Students are going to be classifying objects based on identifiable patterns. We will also be discovering what chemistry is and how we use it in our everyday lives.

IN OTHER SUBJECTS....

In Music with Mrs. Howell, students will be working on rhythmic skills. This will include showing the difference between steady beat and rhythm, identifying strong beat and meter, and expanding their knowledge of rhythmic notations. Using the music of cultures from around the world will help us with this study.

In PE, your child will be building their team skills in order to achieve a task. They will also be practicing how to properly make an over handed throw and apply that skill in a game situation. Ms.

Roth has been excited to see so many students working hard on these skills over the summer!

In Art, students will be examining works by Matisse. This is going to help them explore the idea of positive and negative space as well as color themes. Ms. Smith encourages you to have students look at the colors in their homes to identify these patterns in their own space.

Mrs. Blumberg is helping students to identify how to use their own problem solving skills to help prevent issues. Students are being helped to identify those situ-

ations and actions that they can take control of to repair and those that require additional assistance. Students reinforce how following our guiding principles and rules will help prevent issues on the bus, in class and on the playground.

Thank you Mrs. Bailey for helping all of our classrooms become more technologically advanced! We can't wait to start using the library to help us with our first research topics! The new computer lab equipment and the mini-lab will help increase our access to resources that will make us 21st Century Learn-

6 Traits Writing

We are working on gathering quality ideas in order to expand our sentences and our paragraphs. Reviewing writing conventions to make sure our work is organized according to the rules and that we have correct punctuation is another focus for this month.

