



News from Third Grade

At recess during the winter months, we will use the blacktop and playground area. In order for students to be allowed to play in the snow, they MUST have snow pants, snow boots, coats, gloves, and hats. We suggest that parents write their child's name and class on the inside of their clothing in case any items are lost. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Language Arts

The stories that we will work on in December will also be centered on a theme. The theme is 'What a Team'. 'Little Grunt and the Big Egg' has a setting in the age of dinosaurs. A family of cave people help an egg, which turns out to be a small (then very large) dinosaur. We'll read this in class as a reader's theatre, with each child taking a part. After that we'll read a story about a visiting dog named 'Rosie'. This story is non-fiction and explains how a good visiting dog is first of all recognized, and then trained. The last week of school in December, we'll read a non-fiction piece about the Olympics. It does contain an interesting history of the games, and then that Friday will be our 3rd grade curriculum party with an Olympic Games theme.

Hopefully, toward the end of December, the students will be able to check out a book or two from the LMC to read over break. It is very important for them to keep up with practicing reading over that long two week break.

Mark your Calendars

1992						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

12/04/09 Progress Reports go home

12/18/09 Third Grade Curriculum Party sponsored by the PTA

12/19/08 Market Day

12/21/09-1/01/10 WINTER BREAK

1/04/10 School Resumes - Wear orange for Fairness

December



Science

Our next unit of discovery in science is about Matter. Students should be able to answer the following three questions by the end of the unit...

- 1. What are the three states of matter?**
- 2. What are the different properties of solids, liquids, and gases?**
- 3. What is the difference between a chemical change and a physical change?**

Students will discover that molecules are tiny particles that make up matter and are too small to see without a microscope. Second, types of matter take up space and have weight. Third, physical changes usually cause a difference in the look or feel of matter. Finally, chemical changes result in the matter's molecules being altered to form a new substance.

Wow! Do we have some fun in store for December!

Math Time

Within in the first weeks of December we will be finishing Unit 4 on common uses of multiplication and division. Our unit test will include equal groups, sharing, and grouping. Please remember automaticity is expected with factors of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 10.

We will begin Unit 5 during this quarter. This unit focuses on place value in whole numbers and decimals. We will be working with our basic notation system of single digit numbers 0-9. The students will continue to develop their understanding of our numeral system while working on their estimation and computation skills. We will specifically be looking at the base-ten place-value system to whole numbers through millions and to decimals through thousandths. Using these concepts we will work on reading, writing, comparing, and ordering whole numbers and decimals in real life context.

Math Acceleration

The students continue to work hard everyday in math acceleration! We finished up unit 4 this past week with a unit test. The test covered the following concepts: using decimal number in a variety of ways, measuring, multiples, factors, solving open sentences, and a math extended response. Math box pages for Unit 4 have also been taken for a grade this past week. Then, we will be starting Unit 5 and will be focusing on Unit 5 until winter break.

The main focus of Unit 5 is multiplication! So, please make sure your student is practicing math facts 3 or 4 times each week. The more secure your child is in math facts, the more successful they will be. We will be introducing a variety of algorithms for solving 1 or 2 digit multiplication problems, as well as, new games to practice using those algorithms.

As winter break approaches, students tend to get off-task more easily with all the excitement of the holidays. Please remind your student to continue to work hard throughout these next few weeks.

Your on-going support is greatly appreciated!