



News from Third Grade

The Third Grade Team would like to give a special thanks to our PTA for sponsoring our wonderful Habitat Curriculum Party on Friday, October 30th. We would also like to thank our parent volunteers who help run the event. We appreciate your support!

Language Arts

In our guided reading block, we have settled into our 'Daily Five' time frame. The students have three separate periods of about 20 minutes each. In those periods we check in with them on their choices for what literacy activities they will choose. They must do 'Read to Self' every day. While they are doing those activities the teachers are conducting small guided reading groups. Shared reading, vocabulary activities and direct instruction of a comprehension strategy, is a separate 25 minute period earlier in the afternoon.

During November, we'll be reading stories connected to the theme of 'What A Team'. Theme is an important concept for 3rd grade students to understand, and relating a group of stories to one theme helps. The first story is about people who are helping keep a beach clean for the sea turtles who will be coming ashore to lay their eggs. Then Balto, a dog in Alaska who lead a dog team to receive some medicine in order to save some lives. Then hopefully toward the end of November, we'll read Little Grunt and the Big Egg. This is a story about cave-people and an egg that hatches with a little dinosaur coming out. Glance at the family letters that go home with each story; a summary and vocabulary words are included.

Mark your Calendar

- **11/4/09** - McCarty Book Fair Begins
- **11/4/09** - Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-8pm
- **11/10/09** - NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conferences 8am- 8pm
- **11/11/09** - NO SCHOOL Veterans Day
- **11/13/09** - Picture Re-take
- **11/21/09** - Market Day
- **11/25/09 - 11/27/09** NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

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	

NOVEMBER



Social Studies

At the beginning of this month we started our unit on communities. This unit will be our focus throughout the month of November. Below are the essential questions that students should be able to answer when we are finished.

1. Why do people live where they do?
2. How does geography impact where people live and the community?

To help students understand these ideas, we will be looking at communities of long ago and the communities of today, including the type of community in which we live.

Students will take a look at the geography and communities of Mesa Verde (Anasazi people), Jamestown (Powhatan and English), and San Antonio (Payaya and Coahuiltecan).

Students already learned about rural, suburban and urban communities. They also completed a road map project incorporating each of the three type of communities.

Some vocabulary they will learn and focus on throughout the unit are:



artifacts	kiva
bay	mesa
volunteers	museum
decision	mission
desert	rural
technology	urban
	suburban

Math Time

We will be continuing unit 3 throughout the month of November. Unit 3 was focused on standard units of measurements. Additionally, your student should be able to add and subtract multi-digit numbers, please make sure they can do this through review and practice.

Third grade will also begin unit 4 at the end of this month. During this unit we will be learning the common uses of multiplication and division. These common uses are equal groups, sharing, and grouping. Previously students studied number stories with multiplication and division, we will be using their second grade knowledge to build their abilities now using arrays, mental math, algorithms, and calculators. Automaticity is expected with factors of 0, 1, 2, 3, and 10. Please practice this at home as well. Overall, your student should be able to model and solve multiplication and division number stories, facts, and links.

Math Acceleration

We are finishing up the Unit 3 and will start Unit 4 shortly. Unit 3 focused on multiplication and division. The students should start becoming secure in multiplication and division facts up to 10. This is an essential math skill that they will need not only in third grade math acceleration but also in grades 4, 5, and middle school. Please make sure your child is practicing math facts a few times each week so he/she becomes secure in this skill.

Also in this unit, we spent time looking at large scale maps and practicing measuring distances to scale. We will also continue to practice solving a variety of number stories and using parentheses in number sentences.

For Unit 3, I decided to pre-test the students to see which skills they are already secure in and which they needed to practice more. This proved very helpful when planning for lessons. I plan to continue to pre-test the students before each unit so I have a better understanding of each student's skills.

The main focus of Unit 4 will be decimal numbers. We will be reviewing basic concepts of decimals such as place value, comparing and ordering decimals, and adding and subtracting decimals. Later in the unit we will be studying the metric system and using this system to measure length.