



News from Third Grade

Thank you, chaperones, for making our Brookfield Zoo field trip fun and educational! It was very successful thanks to your support!

Language Arts

At the beginning of this month, in reading, we'll spend a week and a half on Nate The Great. First of all, we'll talk about the genre of mystery writing. We'll also use this story to discuss predicting, and summarizing and retelling. Then a story about a little girl who dreams of playing basketball, will be read and we'll compare fiction with nonfiction about the same subject - basketball. The story after that will probably be read the week of Halloween. It's entitled Turtle Bay. In this story we'll focus on the author's purpose, again, and on clarifying meaning by rereading.

Please note that for every story we do, a parent letter will come home. In this letter, vocabulary words are listed for that story.

Because the readings we do in Science are often non-fiction, the students are working on a non-fiction reading strategy called 'SCAN', in which they look over headings, photos, graphs, captions, and vocabulary before reading. This is to increase their comprehension of those difficult texts.

Guided reading groups will focus on those comprehension ideas, and also on fluency.

In writing, we're working on a unit on paragraphs. We began by exploring paragraphs and finding out what makes a paragraph. For example, we looked at topic sentences, details that support that sentence, concluding sentences, and indenting. So during October, we'll be applying those skills to paragraph writing about a number of topics, including their zoo trip.

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	

- 10/6/09 PTA meeting @ 7pm
- 10/12/09 NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day
- 10/15/09 NO PM SCHOOL, Dismissal at noon
- 10/19—10/23 National Character Counts Week!
- 10/23/09 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/24/09 Market Day and Halloween Happening at Still 5 - 7pm
- 10/30/09 3rd Grade Curriculum Party and Report Cards go Home



Science

Third grade had a fun and educational trip to Brookfield Zoo on Friday! Thanks again, chaperones, for helping us have a safe and successful trip! We will be concluding our unit of study on animal habitats this week.

During the month of October, students will be learning about maps, globes, and communities. While we study geography and map skills, we will be learning about and studying communities. The essential questions we will be covering are:

- 1. Why do people live where they do?**
- 2. How does geography impact where people live and the community?**
- 3. How is our community the same and how is it different from other communities?**
- 4. How can we be an active part of our 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. As we study our community and the world around us, we will be talking about what it means to be a responsible citizen and how many people work together to make a safe community.

Math Time

At the end of September we finished Unit 1 of Everyday Math, and the students had their first test of the year.

We have now begun Unit 2, Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers. The main focus of Unit 2 is on the basic facts and their extensions. This is when students go from adding $2+8$ to now adding $2,000+8,000$. Students are also learning how to find solutions using strategies for number stories and computing multiple digit numbers. We will be using manipulatives, paper and pencil algorithms, and calculators to solve problems involving whole numbers and decimals in money context. Our main goal is to decide what strategy to use and be able to explain why we used it.

Keep practicing your basic math facts at home! They are the building blocks to our extensions.

Math Acceleration

We are well into Unit 2, which focuses on skills such as finding many names for numbers, place value, organizing and displaying data in a variety of ways and adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers. We should be having a test on Unit 2 the week of October 12th.

We will be starting Unit 3 in the middle of October. The main focus of Unit 3 is reviewing multiplication and division, number sentences and algebra.

We have also started working on math extended responses. In a math extended response, the students are asked to solve a number story and explain what they did to solve the problem and why they choose that method. This is a great skill to have and it is on the ISAT in March.

Just a reminder, students have been working on math box pages in class. Students are able to turn in their math journals so these pages can be checked (not graded) which means all students have an opportunity to fix any mistakes he/she has made. A few days after a unit test, students will need to turn in their math journals so the math box pages can be graded and entered into the grade book.

Keep encouraging your child to work on math facts 3-4 times each week. The more automatic these become, the easier math will be. Thanks for your continued support!

S-O-C-I-A-L-S

