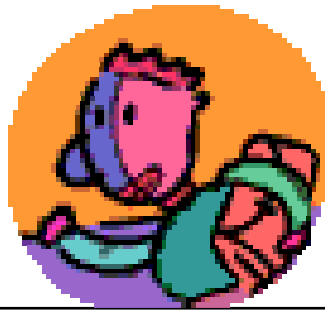


September



News from Third Grade

Language Arts

We're off to a very busy start with our Literacy Block schedule. This block is four separate learning periods. The first is writing, in which we'll be studying paragraphs this month. The second is shared reading, during which time we'll use stories from the Harcourt basal to teach research based reading strategies. The first story is *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. Look for a family letter to come home for each new story we study. The third period is spelling and word study. During this time, we'll work on the word wall, sorting words by pattern, and the district spelling program—which also uses patterns. Finally, we'll continue with guided reading groups. These groups will enable students to concentrate on learning comprehension strategies, extending vocabulary and working on reading fluency with peers who are reading at about their reading level. For the most part students will remain in their respective home rooms during this period.

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Mark your Calendars

- 9/07/09 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
- 9/10/09 Curriculum Night 6:30 - 8:00pm
- 9/18/09 NO SCHOOL - Building Articulation Day
- 9/19/09 Resale at Owen
- 9/25/09 3rd Annual McCarty Mustang Stampede
- 9/26/09 Market Day
- 9/30/09 Fall Picture day

Upcoming Date to Remember...

Friday, October 2nd all third grade students will be taking a field trip to the Brookfield Zoo! More information to follow.



Science

This month our third grade students will explore how living things interact with each other and with their environment through a unit on habitats! Each student will learn about six different habitats, the characteristics of each and the plants and animals that live there. They will determine whether an animal is predator or prey/parasite or host. Students will also describe a basic food chain (web). By the end of this unit, students will be able to answer the following questions: What is a habitat? How do animals survive in their environment? What is a food chain (web)? We will wrap up our habitat unit by going on our own exploration of the Brookfield Zoo on Friday, October 2nd!! How exciting!!



Math Time

School has begun and so has math time fun! We have begun Unit 1 in math, which suggests a variety of review activities for mathematics that students have come across in previous grades. Please look at these activities; they are a quick look at students' background and capabilities in math. You should be seeing about 3-4 home links assignments a week and your student may bring the SRB (*Student Reference Book*) home for help with homework assignments.

Unit 1 mainly focuses on establishing routines that will be used throughout the year and helps to create an active and cooperative learning environment. In this unit we will be learning how to find and create different patterns on number grids. We will also be reviewing time, measuring lengths, calculators, data concepts, and making predictions with data. Towards the end of this unit, students will be learning equivalent names for numbers. We will begin Unit 2 towards the end of September. Unit 2 focuses on reviewing addition and subtraction of whole numbers.

Remember the next few weeks are focused on reviewing key concepts that will be built upon throughout the year, so it is important for your child to practice. Please work hard with your student as we begin our year in third grade mathematics.

Math Acceleration

Math Acceleration is off to a great start! Currently, we have 24 students participating in math accel.

Math acceleration started off by introducing students to their new Student Reference Book (SRB). The SRB is to be used as a tool to help them with math journal pages done in class and it also can be taken home daily to assist them with their homework! Please take some time to look through this with your student and get to know this wonderful tool.

In Unit 1, we will be reviewing lines, line segments, rays and points. We will also be exploring different types of polygons and parallelograms. We will even get the opportunity to practice using a compass!

Later this month, we will begin Unit 2 in which we will be using numbers and organizing data. We'll review place value, using a calculator, organizing and displaying data on graphs, and adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers.

You can expect your student to be getting about 3-4 homework assignments each week and please make sure your child is practicing math facts weekly.