



Grade 3 Newsletter

We have had an exciting beginning to our new school year with many wonderful activities and projects occurring in our classrooms. We hope this newsletter gives you a flavor of what your child has been learning and what will be happening in the months ahead. Our newsletter will provide insights into your child's academic curriculum and ways you can nurture and foster their love and excitement of learning.

Reading and Writing

The students have been busy working on the second unit, Author Study. During reading the kids have been eagerly reading books by the author Allen Say while analyzing each of the stories' elements. They have also been busy bees finding interesting works, making connections, asking questions about the story, and finding the theme in each book. We encourage you to take a family trip to the library and have your child check out a few of their favorite Allen Say books to read to you. Check out this website to learn more about Allen Say.
<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/allensay/author.shtml>.

During writing the students have been working hard on writing a narrative. We have been reading Allen Say's books carefully looking for the different components of a narrative such as great beginnings, descriptive language, suspense, detailed main event, and great endings.

Math

In math, we are working on Unit 3 titled "Linear Measures and Area" in our Everyday Mathematics program. This unit extends the basic measuring skills that the third graders have already acquired throughout their school career. The unit begins with the children creating a standard class "shoe size" unit of measurement which is then used to measure various items within the classroom. The students then progress to using U.S. customary and metric units to measure. The rest of the unit focuses on perimeter and area. Unit 3 has four main areas of focus, which are: to

explore the need for standard units of measure, to measure lengths using customary and metric units, to develop the concept of area, and to investigate the relationship between diameter and circumference.

In addition to working in our daily math journals on measurement, the children will take timed addition and subtraction quizzes weekly. These quizzes help show basic fact knowledge and growth. It also helps the students to know them in a flash. Please drill your child regularly. Learning math facts is as important as knowing the alphabet! Your child will reap the benefits of this knowledge throughout their school career and adult life.

Social Studies & Science

The students began the school year with learning about the Native Americans of the Northeast Woodlands region of the United States. During this unit, the children have taken a closer look at different tribes that lived in the area learning about what they looked like, the types of homes they lived in, the roles of the family members, farming, gathering, legends, the three sisters, the importance of the deer, creating skin stories, and much more! This year we will be visiting the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. Please check out the attached calendar to see the date your child's class will be going. This fabulous trip will give the students a true understanding of what life was like for a Native Americans of the Northeast Woodlands. We will also take an in-depth look at the Southwest Native Americans and compare their way of life to the Native Americans of the Northeast Woodlands.

The third grade scientists are having a blast investigating the five unknowns as part of our Chemical Tests unit! They are busy making predictions and conducting experiments testing the five unknown chemicals with many other chemicals such as water, vinegar, iodine, cabbage juice, and much more. After adding these chemicals to the unknowns, the children observe the chemical reactions. Eventually, the five unknowns are revealed and the kids are amazed how each chemical can be found in the cupboards of their own home!