



## December Newsletter



Baby Drive: This year the 3rd graders wanted to give back to our community. We had found out that the food pantry is very low on baby items for older babies so we are having a baby drive! The third graders made posters, wrote an announcement speech, and even created video commercials to promote the event! They are very excited to see all the donations that will come in next week.

Math - During the months of November and December, your mathematician has been busy with the foundations of multiplication. The terms we are working on are multiplication/multiply defined as “groups of”, factors defined as “numbers that are getting multiplied to get a product”, and product is defined as “the answer to a multiplication problem.” They will not be timed tested but we will emphasize the facts to build on the standard that states students should know the facts up to 100. Mathematicians will be working on fact families or turnaround facts. Example  $2 \times 5 = 10$ ,  $5 \times 2 = 10$ . Throughout this month we will incorporate multiplication and division into problem-solving activities which include story problems, games as well as number sentences. At home, you can make your own flashcards, play card games, make arrays, write word problems to practice facts. If you're looking for a fun website to use for math facts, try [Math Playground](#). This site has a wide variety of games about math for grades 1-6. The third-grade section is full of great games to practice multiplication and division facts, as well as fractions, graphing, and money. Students will also learn the foundations of division. We will be gaining the understanding that division is the act of dividing a large group into equal smaller groups. Most likely, your child will not even encounter division expressions because we are just trying to understand what it means to divide.

Literacy- We have just started a literacy unit called Inquiry. The essential question for learning is *How can inquiry solve problems?* Students will understand that the cycle of inquiry can be used to solve problems and that researchers search for answers to their questions to guide their study. In Language Workshop they will discuss books with real people that followed the inquiry cycle to solve a problem in their life. We finished a book called, The Boy That Harnessed the Wind. Ask your child to tell you about it. They loved this story.

This unit involves studying how informational text is read and written. The students will explore the various text features (close-ups, cutaways, table of contents, maps...etc..) that authors of informational text use to teach the reader about a topic. Students will also work

on the comprehension skill of finding the main idea and supporting details of an informational paragraph.

Writing: We are starting a new unit on persuasive writing! We have already written letters to Mrs. Barry in hopes to convince her that 3rd grade should have a class pet. Students are thinking about solutions to problems to make the world, classroom, school, or community a better place. They are also thinking about people who deserve attention and recognition! Students will be working towards supporting a point of view about a topic by stating an opinion and listing reasons, examples, and details to support that opinion. They already are having a great time with this unit!

Phonics:

Each week on Blackboard there is a slide show that shows the at home learning activities for 3rd grade. Students know where to find this as we practice often at school. Their My Word Study Book should be in their home binder. During the week, students need to practice automaticity 3 times a week, record themselves on flipgrid for reading with fluency, and complete a closed sort. Please have your child show you the slides if you haven't seen them yet! Also, we have 8 spelling words each week that match the spelling pattern we are working on. The spelling words are stapled into each student's assignment notebook for the week. They love practicing their words at school with their spelling menu! Have your child show you that as well!

Reminders

December 11th-18th - Baby Drive for Waukesha Food Pantry

December 22nd - Holiday Spirit Day

December 23rd - January 3rd - Winter Break

January 4th - Students return to school.

Please enjoy the break and this special time of year with your child.

We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year!

Mrs. Libby MacCudden

[ezmaccudde@waukesha.k12.wi.us](mailto:ezmaccudde@waukesha.k12.wi.us)

Ms. Karra O'Gorman

[kogorman@waukesha.k12.wi.us](mailto:kogorman@waukesha.k12.wi.us)

Mrs. Elaine Mazza

