

January Newsletter



Literacy- Third graders are sharpening their comprehension skills this month as we start our new reading unit on biographies. The Essential Question that students are thinking about is, “How are identities formed and shaped?” They just heard and discussed the book, Dream Big. This is a narrative biography on Michael Jordan. We also read a timeline type biography on his life. As they read biographies students are thinking about what they can learn from the person that is the subject of the biography. They are thinking about what events and/or people impacted this person’s life. Eventually, students will be choosing a person to write a biography about in writers’ workshop. Right now students are finishing up their invention writing pieces.

Math- As we ring in the New Year we are shifting our focus from multiplication and division to fractions and geometry. Students will learn to identify and sort quadrilaterals. We will focus on attributes of each shapes and how they are related. They will also begin learning about the basics of fractions, such as identifying the numerator and denominator and dividing shapes into fractional pieces.

Although we will be moving on from our multiplication and division unit, it is important that students continue to practice their multiplication and division facts for homework each night. Students will be focusing on one group of facts each week (ie - 2s, 5s, 10s) and will have times during the year to show my their proficiency with those facts as they master them. A great site for your student to use in order to practice facts with fun games is [ABCya](#). When you click on the third grade numbers section, there are lots of great multiplication and division games.

Social Studies - During this month students will be working on creating their geography landform project. Students are using the books, Geography A-Z and websites in order to become a travel guide and share information about landforms.

Behavior- Mrs. Horton and I have been speaking to the kids about their behavior outside of our classrooms. I have told them how proud I am of them on how they conduct themselves in my classroom, but that I am disappointed in how I am hearing how they behave in some special classes and in the lunchroom. Now, of course, this does not apply to every student, but all students’ behavior affect the other students in the room. We had a community meeting and the students got to express their feelings about how other students’ behavior affects them in these other settings. (no names were

used) During this conversation many students explained how they feel when teaching has to stop because of behavior or how uncomfortable they feel when students disrespect teachers, lunch helpers or other students. I explained to the students if they know how to be kind and respectful in our third grade classrooms then they know how to be kind and respectful in other classrooms. I told them since they know how to follow these expectations that when they don't in the other settings, it is a choice they are making. I went on to explain that every adult in this building is here for them. That every adult cares about them and wants them to be the best they can be. I reminded them that they are to show every adult respect and kindness. After this discussion, I encouraged the students that have been making poor choices to make amends. I told them they could come to me and I would help them with that or I would set up a time for them to speak to these adults. I had three students come to me and with notes written to teachers. I was very proud of their bravery and honesty. You can help by reiterating with your child that you expect him/her to treat all adults in the school with respect. Remind them that this may mean accepting directions that they may not want to follow. Having the students hear the same message from both their classroom teachers and their parents will be helpful. Thanks for your support.

Reminders

No School for Students- January 21 and 22

Space Alien Day- January 30

Stay warm,

Mrs. Wendy Anderson

Mrs. Kelly Horton

Mrs. Elaine Mazza

Mrs. Kelly Zirbel