

# Third Grade October Newsletter

## Mrs. Anderson-Literacy



### **Reading and Language Workshop**

The students and I have been discussing a variety of books that reflect our theme of Community. The essential question for this unit was: How does change influence a community?

Please ask your child about the books Marvelous Cornelius, Miss Rumphius, Tree Lady and Emmanuel's Dream. These are beautiful stories of how one person positively influenced their community. Our next unit will be focusing on

the theme entitled Relationships. In this unit, students will learn that people are impacted through relationships in many different ways. The essential question that the students will be continually reflecting upon is: How are people transformed through relationships? I am excited about this upcoming unit. I have been discussing with the students that the **most important part of reading** is understanding what we read. Reading is not a matter of reading words, but of thinking about and questioning text. We talked about reading "wide awake" so your mind is thinking why you read. One strategy to check to see if your understanding what you read is to do check-ins while you're reading. Stop and ask yourself, Who did I read about?, What just happened to this person? And what do we think might happen next? Students will be learning about how readers also make a movie in their mind about what is happening.

### **Writers' Workshop**

The students have written Bio Poems. This is a poem about yourself that follows a certain pattern. Students also designed a portrait of themselves to go with the poem. Check these creative poems out in the hallway outside of our classroom. We are now starting a unit on persuasive writing.

### **Word Study**

We are practicing our spelling routines. On Mondays students will choose 6-9 words from a list of words following a certain pattern. The spelling list may also include word commonly used words in third grade writing. Last week the students practiced their spelling routines with a 6 word list. Each day during the week the students will be following a different practice method with their partner. Words will come home on Monday on their iPad in the form of a photo or on a Google Doc. Take time during the week to practice the spelling words with your child as part of the homework routine.

### **Classroom Management**

In my classroom I form a relationship with each student by getting to know them not only academically, but personally and socially. This helps me manage behavior because students know I care about them and they want to please. I try to build a community where all feel comfortable learning. In order to emphasize that we are a community that helps each member succeed, I reward the whole class when all follow expectations at once. I do this by placing a gumball or marble in a jar. When the gumballs or marbles are emptied out of their bag into the jar, the class earns a small celebration. The other reward system I use is handing out tickets to children that are individually following directions right when they are given. As the student accumulates tickets, they can cash them in for a variety of prizes. These methods have been successful for most and we are building a nice classroom community.

## **Mrs. Horton - Math, Science, and Social Studies**

### **Math**

The month of October is a busy one for our mathematicians. We are finishing our first unit on graphing and rounding to the nearest 10 and 100. We will be working on addition and subtraction strategies with sums to 1000. Being fluent with facts up to 20 greatly helps when adding and subtracting numbers to 100 and 1000. Students also will demonstrate knowledge of place value, number sense, and explain reasonableness of answers using mental computation. Students are encouraged to choose whatever strategy works for them, then move on to strategies that are more efficient. Vocabulary terms we will be using: digit, estimating, accuracy, add, addend, place value, subtract, subtraction and the Associative, Commutative and Identity Properties of Addition.

Extra math fact practice - If you're looking for another way your student can practice their addition and subtraction math facts, [IXL](#) might be the site for you. IXL has many different skills to practice and even can send parents a weekly update on your child's progress. Check it out!

### **Science and Social Studies**

We will be finishing our unit on map skills unit and moving onto our first unit in science. We will be learning about forces and motion. We will be learning about gravity and how gravity affects many things on Earth. We will also be creating pendulums and measuring the movement of objects.

### **Classroom Management**

Firstly, I believe a relationship with students is the most important way to assure students will act in a way so they and others learn as much as possible. I do many activities at the beginning of the year and throughout the year so students have a chance to share about themselves and learn about me. Each day we start class with a question of the day, like "what is your favorite animal?" which creates a sense of community. I give out tickets to students who individually show they are following classroom expectations throughout the day and students can earn prizes with 10, 20, 30, or 50 tickets. I also have a whole class incentive called Brownie Points. We focus on one aspect of our behavior (such as transitions from one activity to another, whole listening bodies, or walking in line) and if I catch the entire class doing the behavior we are focusing on, they earn a brownie point. Once they fill their whole cookie sheet with brownie points, they will earn a small celebration like a pajama day or extra game time on Dreambox.

### **Reminders:**

October 15, 16, 24th	Fall Conferences (Don't forget to visit the Book Fair)
October 17	Book Fair Spirit Day- Enchanted Forest
October 19	Badger Homecoming Spirit Day
October 23	Wear Pink to support cancer research
October 24	Early Release
October 25 & 26	No School
October 31	Halloween Costume Day

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Also, please update your email when it changes so you receive information.

Thanks so much for your support.

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