

3M Post Its



Mrs. Meyer's Third Grade Newsletter October 2017

We are now full-fledged third graders, settled in and following routines. Following is both a recap of September and a preview of what's coming up next:



Language Arts

We have completed our close reading of Flat Stanley, and will soon be wrapping up Stone Fox. Our focus has been on using context clues when figuring out unknown words and figurative language. We have also been working on covering up suffixes and prefixes and looking for smaller words (or chunks) inside big words when trying to decode a word we don't know.

During Readers Workshop, I meet with each child individually once or twice each week. During the first few minutes of each meeting, the child provides a quick summary of what they are currently reading independently and what strategies they are using. We then focus on a specific skill to practice. I am able to take anecdotal notes at this time and hone in on exactly what your child is doing well and what support is needed so I can target their instruction. I will share all this info with you at our November conference.

In Writer's Workshop, we have wrapped up our first writing piece: Our Favorite Candy. A copy of this writing went home last week. We worked on developing 'juicy' details that supported our topic sentence. We have just begun our first narrative piece focusing on a single moment in time. We call these 'seed stories' or 'small moments'. Your child has drafted several versions of either one moment or several different moments. Soon they will

need to choose one to take all the way through the drafting, revising, and editing process. It is a challenge for third graders to zero in on one moment in time and to establish a writer's voice. We are working hard to unfold the moment slowly without sounding like a news reporter.



Social Studies

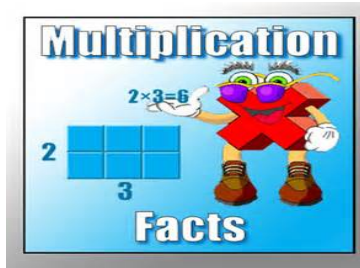
Thank you for mailing all the flats. Now we wait for the responses. The children will LOVE receiving mail at school! As they come in, we will hang them up in the room, classifying them by community type. We will also be identifying the flats by state on a map of the USA. This should begin helping us learn the names and locations of our 50 states. Help at home with this would be great. Thank you also for your help with the community brochures. **They are due on October 27th. Please help your child plan it out so time is well managed. Thank you for making sure these are 'child' created projects. 😊**



Science

Next week we will start a short unit on rocks and minerals. We will be reading lots of non-fiction, viewing videos and interactive power points on the smart board and examining several types of rocks. Many hands on labs are planned. We will create foldables to learn new vocabulary and will collaborate with our 8th grade buddies to do some online research on the myths associated with our specific birthstone. The eighth graders will love showing off their chrome books as well as gleaning knowledge about their own birthstones. This

integrated Language Arts/Science activity is sure to be a hit for all ages !



Math

We are moving through Chapter 2 which focuses on estimation, addition and mental math (calculating with strategies). I am noticing that several children are rusty with their addition and subtraction math facts. Flashcards and/or Reflex Math and practice at home will make their lives much easier! :) Subtraction with larger numbers is next!

Please access the text book online (log in info below) if your child needs more practice with the concepts being practiced for homework. There are activities, games, videos, review pages and even the homework if your child fails to bring it home! The web site is connected.mcgraw-hill.com. Your child's user name is: first initial, last name23. The password is: onlinemath23. This is a great resource for your child. Reflex math is also set up for 3M. Please let me know if your child does not remember his/her password. (All passwords are the same as last year, and were also sent home again in June with the summer packet).



Religion

We begin religion with a time for private and public intentions. In addition, we spend time praying specifically to the Blessed Mother. In honor of St. Therese' feast day (Oct. 2), we listened to her story, and made beautiful prayer cards and red roses. Be sure to ask your child the significance of the red rose. We are

working on doing 'the little things' (small acts of kindness) she often spoke of.

Odds and Ends

Thank you to Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Puma for volunteering to be our room moms this year. I thank you in advance for your support when they contact you for help and/or supplies. You will be contacted soon regarding our Halloween party. Details will go home as soon as they are finalized.

No School Friday, Oct. 6th and Monday, Oct. 9th. Enjoy the long weekend!

Community Brochures are due on **Friday, Oct. 27th. Please make sure your child follows the rubric. Your child should be prepared to speak (not read) about his/her community for a few minutes.**

Thank you for signing your child's planner Monday - Thursday nights and helping them stay organized with reading logs, spelling lists and homework. It is a lot to keep track of and many children still need help managing all of it. Reading logs get turned in upon completion, even though I check them daily.

Just a reminder: incorrect spelling words from a Friday test need to be written 5 times and returned to me.

Thank you for emptying folders every night. I try to send home completed work as soon as possible.

Thank you to all families who have sent in items from my Back to School Wish list. I am overwhelmed by your generosity.

Happy Fall !

