

THIRD GRADE

Dear Families,

There was certainly no shortage of hearts and games today. Pinks and reds were definitely the colors of the day. My heartfelt thanks go to our party organizers who organized a wonderful Valentine's Day party for the class.

Our biography presentations were outstanding. I enjoyed how the children brought the person they studied to life in our classroom. We had some creative costumes and informative history lessons.

In reading, the students have been sharing their observations about the characters in their independent reading books. We are focusing on character traits and making theories about our main characters, wondering why they are the way they are. We will introduce a new structure-book clubs- which will support student work for the next few weeks. Within these book clubs, the students will continue to delve into their main character's qualities and actions, but this will be transferred across the whole story. They will be introduced to the shape that stories take-the story mountain. Big events will be highlighted along with how conflict is at the heart of all stories. I am modeling the thinking they are doing on their own with the beloved story, *Because of Winn-Dixie*. We also had the pleasure of seeing an actor portray Harriet Tubman in an assembly for the third and fourth grade this week. It tied in very well with our biography presentations.

Students are finishing up their two informational books- one on the Native American tribe they have researched during Social Studies, and the other a book on a topic of their choice. Many students have been able to publish their content, but more importantly, have worked with their drafts to revise and edit, really focusing on organization of paragraphs and elaborating on sub-topics. As the month comes to a close, our writing will take a narrative turn where the students will write endings to stories that have been started. Developing characters and actions will be explored.

We wrapped up our unit on area and perimeter along with identifying various attributes of shapes focusing on triangles and quadrilaterals. The class participated in discussions on how shapes can share attributes. We are now extending our learning into our next unit - multiplication. Our unit at the beginning of the year focused on multiplying 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. By now, students should feel very comfortable with these math facts. Now we are focusing on multiplying by 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. We are using cube trains, arrays, and the break apart strategy to figure out facts that the students may not know. Please continue practicing math facts at home. I will provide some easy games students can play at home to practice their facts at conferences.

In science, we began our STEM unit - Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions. In this unit, the students explore simple machines such as wheel and axles, levers, the inclined plane, and more. They will investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object. In the design problem, students will be faced with the challenge of how to rescue a trapped tiger at a zoo. Students will then apply their knowledge of forces and devise a way to rescue a heavy zoo

animal while keeping it safe throughout the process. This is a very popular unit for the students! Students will be able to apply these concepts during our upcoming Field Trip to the DuPage Children's Museum. Please make sure your students has returned the field trip form signed by a family member. I am still missing a few forms.

Excellent work to our Teachers of the Week- Izabela and Joe for sharing their wealth of knowledge on the topic of dogs and kayaking. This is an awesome opportunity

For classmates to learn a bit more about each others' interests and talents. It also offers students the opportunity to work on presentation skills- a very important component to our classroom!



For music class, please be sure your child has his/her recorder here at school each music class day (Mondays and Tuesdays. As important as practicing the recorder, ever more so is participating in class. By practicing regularly, and remembering to bring recorders and books, we are developing themes of responsibility and respect.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/17 No School, President's Day



2/18 No School, Professional development for teachers

2/27 and 2/28 Parent Teacher conferences: please sign up if you haven't. If you need an alternative time, please let me know.



3/2 No School, Casimir Pulaski Day

3/4 Field Trip to the DuPage Children's Museum

The PTO Lincoln School Auction will be on Friday, March 13!

Have a great long weekend,

Roxy Ponzio