

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Just about two more (busy) weeks before our Winter Recess.

During our math times, we continue to use place value to aid us in rounding by tens and hundreds. We have worked a great deal this week on adding two and three digits numbers as we solve a variety of story problems. The students loved sharing different strategies that work best for them with their math partners. We played Capture 300 on the 300 Chart, found reasonable estimates, and broke apart numbers and added on numbers in parts.

In reading, we completed our mystery unit. Partners created “Mystery Celebration” slides and shared their work with their second grade Leap Buddies. Then, we studied Native American legends, which ties in with our Social Studies unit. Students acted out a Reader’s Theater entitled How Coyote Brought Fire to the People. Their presentation was posted on Seesaw.

This week, we started our nonfiction unit. Readers of nonfiction texts are active, constructive readers. Students are studying text features to help determine “What is this text mostly about?” Our focus this week was reading various expository texts and figuring out the main idea(s) and supporting details. We used our hand as a graphic organizer to summarize texts as well as a box and bullet approach to pull out key information. Because we are transitioning from one month to next, students should return their November Reading Logs back to school so we can review the reading they have done at home. Please make sure students are reading and charting their reading in their logs.

During Writing, students have started our next unit on informational writing. This unit will parallel well with our Reading and Social Studies Units. In addition to our informational writing and researching, we completed a fun, creative writing activity called the Three Wishes. The students had to create three wishes, but they could not be materialistic or monetary. Once they got started, our students produced some lovely sentiments. Empathy for others is a concept that cannot be practiced early enough. Thinking of those less fortunate is a wonderful holiday message. As our writing is completed, we are turning them into gifts. Please look for them outside our classroom.

In social studies, we are currently researching our Native American tribes and collecting information. I look forward to the sharing time at the end of these sessions when the children make connections among their tribes. Ask your students what they have learned about their assigned tribe!

Excellent work to our Teachers of the Week- Michael mesmerized us with some magic tricks. Mimi got everyone’s attention discussing a third grade hot topic- stuffed animals.

If you have any Pringles cans available, please send them in with your child at your earliest convenience. We will use the cans for a project the week before break.

Students have been working on creating films with the theme of “Come Together” during our Tech Integration class. A media release form is coming home with students. Please review this form with your student. Please send back if you and your student accept the guidelines.

Upcoming events:

- Friday 12/20 The **class winter party** is at 8:25-9:25 a.m. An early THANK YOU to all families that are preparing for the party!

-Friday 12/20 at 1:00 p.m **Third Grade Winter Concert.** The Art room is open afterward for you to see the class’ Native American artwork. Students have an **early dismissal** on 12/20. Students will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m.

Have a great weekend!

Ms. Ponzio

