

# THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

Our trip to the Chicago Botanic Gardens was a huge success! Thank you to all of the parents that came with us on our field trip. It truly was a beautiful day! The knowledgeable instructors helped our young botanists learn about the parts and functions of a flower. Students dissected flowers to examine their structures. They gathered evidence of how certain flower characteristics help attract pollinators so the plant can make seeds. Students planted their own Wisconsin Fast Plants last week, and this week, we made observations of our growing plants.

Last week in math, we wrapped up Unit 1: Understanding Equal Groups. Be sure to encourage your child to continue to work on learning their multiplication/division facts through real world situations or engaging games. We have now begun Unit 2: Graphs and Line Plots. We have been gaining experience surveying, collecting data, and choosing categories so we can plot the data on graphs. We will be solving problems with bar graphs and pictographs. We are interpreting bar graphs, and learning about each other in the process. Students are really enjoying collecting and interpreting data! During our Tech Integration time, students used the app, Numbers, to collect and create graphs.

We have just completed our narrative writing unit. Students have been working hard to publish their favorite piece of narrative writing and create an artistic cover. The published pieces will be hanging up, so the next time you are in the building please check out their wonderful writing. Next week, we will get into our opinion writing unit.

In reading, we wrapped up our first reading unit, *Building a Reading Life*. Students learned how good readers ask questions as they read, such as 'How could...?' and 'Why?' Then readers pondered over possible answers, rereading and rethinking. The class is asking more questions as we begin the mystery unit. In this case, the readers will be asking, "What's the mystery here? and "Who is the crime solver?" They will be paying close attention to story details that might be clues and use those clues to solve the mystery.

The class thoroughly enjoyed the author visit on Oct. 10. The New York Times best-selling author, Aaron Reynolds, presented to the third graders regarding his current and upcoming books. The students loved his enthusiasm. He really focused on preserving and the importance of revision in our writing!

Attached you find find a note from one of our social workers, Sharon Payton regarding an opportunity for any students.

Excellent work to Charlie for sharing his Teacher of the Week presentation this week! The students loved learning about various mazes, and were even able to create their own.

### **Upcoming events:**

**The Halloween parade is at 12:40 p.m. on 10/31.** The classes will once again parade around the perimeter of the playground for all to see the terrific costumes. The Halloween party will begin right after the parade. Everyone is welcome to come and share in the excitement of the parade and the party.

**Veterans Day plan:** If your child has a relative or friend who served in the military, please honor them and complete the form that was sent home last Friday and return it to school. You can put a picture where the star is on the sheet. There will be a box in the office for collection. Then they will be placed in the Hall of Honor. In addition, in class each student will make/decorate a card for a veteran. The cards will be sent to the VA Hospital and placed on the breakfast trays of patients on Veterans Day. On Monday, November 11, at 9:00 a.m., we will have an all school assembly in the gym to pay tribute to any veterans who attend. Please bring a veteran. It is a wonderful event.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** I look forward to sharing your child's progress with you at parent-teacher conferences on Nov. 6 and 7.

Have a great weekend! I am off to University of Illinois Homecoming. Go ILLINI!

Conference Dates	Conference Times by Grade Level
<b>Wednesday, November 6</b>	<b>Pre-K and Kindergarten:</b> 8:40 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. <b>Grades 1-4:</b> 3:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. <b>Grades 5-8:</b> 3:40 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, November 7</b>	<b>Pre-K and Kindergarten:</b> 12:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. <b>Grades 1-4:</b> 12:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. <b>Grades 5-8:</b> 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

To register, you may click on the appropriate link below starting on Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 a.m. until Wednesday, October 30 at 10:00 p.m.:

Ms. Ponzio