

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that September has come to an end and October has begun.

Many of our students completed their fall MAPS testing these past two weeks. We look forward to using this data to help enhance our instruction.

Last week, we welcomed the author, Karina Yan Glaser, to Lincoln School. She is the author of The Vanderbecker series. Ms. Glaser explained the process of becoming a published author and the amount of time and commitment it takes to revise, revise, and revise some more!

Math has kept us very busy as we learn different tools to help us understand the concepts of multiplying and dividing. The kids are becoming experts at arrays, and are comparing multiplication and division word problems. We have also begun our problem of the month activities. The children are learning to persevere and use different strategies for these problem solving challenges.

In writing, we are currently revising endings to our narratives and using editing checklists to fine-tune our work. It is important for the children to reread their drafts asking themselves, "What is the important message I've conveyed?" Publishing will be taking place throughout next week.

In reading, we have been working on ways to lift the levels of the children's reading by tackling complex texts with grit, climbing the hurdle of hard words by chunking the words, thinking about the gist of the story, and asking questions about a word by connecting it to synonyms and antonyms. In addition to this, we have also focused our attention to figurative language. Students used clues from text to help determine the non-literal meaning of various idioms.

Because it is a new month, students received two new reading logs. Instead of taking one log back and forth with them to and from school, we are going to try one at home and one at school. I am hoping this new process will help students better keep track of their daily reading. The "home" log are in their red homework folders. They can either keep them in their folders or keep them at home and return them at the end of the month.

We have concluded our Social Studies unit on Communities. Students worked hard to create books about a created community where they noted various information involving mapping skills and geography skills of a place of their choice. Be on the lookout for these books. They will be sent home once we have a book viewing party in class. Our first science unit has begun- Plant Growth and Development. The children paired up with their "lab

partners” (when I mentioned there are lab partners in middle school, high school, and even college, the students were SO excited) and observed a dry lima bean and one that was immersed in water overnight. Students listed observations and used scientific tools to investigate the seeds. We will plant our own seeds and begin our observations on Wisconsin Fast Plants next week. These plants complete a life cycle in under 30 days allowing the children an opportunity to observe and collect data. We look forward to taking what we have learned and continuing our ‘plant knowledge’ at our field trip to Botanic Gardens in a couple of weeks.

During our Social Emotional Learning time (Feeling Fine Time), we have reviewed the importance of staying organized. Students brainstormed some ideas and suggestions- we have implemented “desk checks” and “desk mates” as well as a class Lost and Found. We also learned more about the interesting job of a spy with our first Teacher of the Week presentation!

Upcoming events:

- No School on Wednesday, October 9th.
- Aaron Reynolds, Author Visit, Thursday, October 10th.
- Conference Sign-Ups will be available on Thursday, October 10th. Please be on the lookout!
- Our field trip to the Botanic Garden is Tuesday, October 15th. **Please make a note to pack your child’s lunch/drink in a disposable container.** Also, comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing and shoes are in order for the day. There are a couple field trip permission slips that have not been returned. Please send them in when you have a chance. Thank you to the families that have offered to assist on this trip.
- As a reminder from the office:

As a logistical convenience to our families please utilize the following methods when communicating the absence of your child:

1) Call the School Attendance Line and leave a detailed message: 708.366.7340

2) Send an email 24-7 to lincolnattendance@district90.org. Please copy me on the email.

Happy Friday, and enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ponzio