

# Third Grade Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the third grade newsletter! You will receive a copy every other week.

It has been an exciting week for every third grader in our class. Learning new names, seeing familiar faces, reviewing old math facts, and spending time in the room has allowed me a chance to see that we are going to have an incredible year. I look forward to making third grade a memorable one! We have been very busy since school started!

## **Reading/Word Work/ Writing**

We are using the Units of Study, in both reading and writing. The children explored our reading libraries as we discussed what it means to have a “reading life”. As the week continued, we spent time reading as if books were gold, and found books within our reach. Be sure to ask your child what it means to read like a curmudgeon. The children will be creating reading goals as they continue to think about what they are reading about. Each night, students will bring home a blue folder with a reading log. They should fill out their logs after they read (20-30 minutes) at home. Folders can be returned to school the following day.

We discussed word work procedures this week. Students will get their first list next Monday. We will start spelling tests next Friday. A sheet entitled “STAR” will be sent home on Monday. These are optional activities students can complete at home during the course of the week to practice their words and spelling patterns. It is important that students understand the spelling patterns.

In writing, the students decorated the covers of their writing journals, wrote writing goals, and began organizing small moment stories about important people and places. We will continue this writing into next week as we delve into a storyteller’s voice where the children will tell their stories in scenes rather than summaries.

## **Math/Social Studies**

In math, we started our investigation of multiplication. The unit focuses on understanding the meaning of multiplication, modeling multiplication using arrays, and understanding the relationship between multiplication and division. It is a good idea to have the students practice number patterns (counting by 2s, 3s, 5s, 6s, 10s) any chance they get!

In Social Studies, we compare and contrasted the three main types of communities, urban, suburban and rural and created a whole class acrostic about our special community of River Forest.

## **SEL**

Our main Social Emotional Learning time will be held each week. The first part of the session will focus around our "Teacher of the Week." Students will be assigned a week sometime during the school year where they will be our "teacher of the week." Students will complete a "Getting to Know You" poster at home that they can share with their classmates. It will be hung on our classroom's window. Students will also complete a "lesson plan" and share a lesson of their choice with their classmates on a Wednesday afternoon. This lesson does not have to be "academic." Examples of lessons- teach your classmates how to play baseball, lesson of Ancient Rome. Students are responsible for making any copies or bringing in any props/presentations for their lesson. These lessons should span about 10-20 minutes. It is a fun way to get to know each other. I have done this activity with my students for years- our "teachers" get to shine and share their talents and interests with their classmates, while also working on presentation skills! I modeled a "Teacher of the Week" lesson this past week (all about Ukraine). We will begin these weekly activities in late September. Once decided, I will post the schedule with the student's number and week on the Weebly site.

## **Seesaw/ Getting To Know You Forms/ Weebly Website**

Almost everyone is signed up for Seesaw. If you have not signed up, please take a moment to do so. I am new to Seesaw, so we will work together using this interactive program! There is also time to still complete the Getting to Know Your Child Forms and submit online. I will be updating the class website with various information. Please bookmark- <http://d90ponzio.weebly.com>

## **Reporting Absences reminder**

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](mailto:lincolnattendance@district90.org). Please copy **me** on the email.

## **School Communication**

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to sign up to receive our weekly Lincoln Log family newsletter. Please go to <http://lincoln.district90pto.org/> to sign up to receive this important weekly communication.

## **Upcoming Dates**

Thursday, September 12 Open House:

6:30-6:55 - 3rd - 4th Grade Teacher Presentations in Classrooms

7:00-7:25 - Casey Presentation/PTO Meeting in Auditorium

Friday, September 27- 11:25 Early Release

Enjoy the weekend,

Mrs. Ponzio