

Third Grade Circular



April 4, 2014

Reading

As a building we are focusing on reading and comprehending nonfiction texts, which works out really well for third grade because we are also currently writing nonfiction. Through our lessons we read different nonfiction books and discussed text features such as title, table of contents, index, and glossary. We used a graphic organizer to help us determine the main idea and supporting details of a text. We also taught the students to apply some of the comprehension strategies they learned earlier to reading nonfiction. **TIP: Encourage your child to check out nonfiction books from the public library.**

Writing

Our persuasive reviews are published or are in the process of being published and we are now turning our attention to writing preparing students for the writing prompt that they will do for the MAP in a couple of weeks. Through out the year we ask the students to complete on-demand writing however this is slightly different from the type of writing they will do on the MAP. We teach student how to analyze the prompt to help them understand the expected format they will use, audience, topic and purpose. All year long we've taught them how to write. This mini unit provides them with tools to make sure that they are able to show this on a test.

Math

We have completed the first book of Math In Focus! The students have covered the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division with a heavy emphasis on problem solving. The rest of our year in math will be devoted to building an understanding of how we use these skills in other situations. In Chapter 10 we used our skills of addition and subtraction to help us with money. In Chapters 11 and 12 we will apply this understanding to measurement. **TIP: When you are in the store encourage your child to add the prices of two items mentally.**

Science

Mr. Chaney's class is working to complete a study of the earth science unit 'Soils, Rocks, and Landforms' in the science lab. They learned how larger rocks can gradually be worn down into smaller rocks through physical and chemical weathering. Students then used stream tables as a method for modeling how water can erode land thus causing various landforms to be created. They also studied how processes such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and floods can cause rapid changes to Earth's surface. Students then learned how geologists observe and describe minerals using such properties as color, hardness, streak, and luster. The unit will conclude with a study of how we use soil and rocks as important natural resources.

Social Studies

Mrs. McKenna's class is wrapping up their culture research. The students are using a variety of sources for this work. One thing that we emphasize for students is the importance of synthesizing information from multiple sources. Mrs. Johnson's class is learning economic skills. We are extending the work that students did in previous years with their Barter Fair to understanding how economics plays out on a global scale. **TIP: When you are at the store or folding laundry look at labels and tags to see what country your item comes from.**

Spelling

We are approaching the end of our spelling units. Please encourage your child to use the strategies that we've learned in their daily writing at home. We know that these tests alone are not how children become great spellers. But they do support the transfer from spelling tests to authentic writing.

Important Dates

4/17	PTO Meeting
4/21-4/25	MAP Testing
4/23	Late Start
4/24	PTO Flower Sale and School Beautification
5/2	3C to Pere Marquette

MAP Testing News

Third grade students will take the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) test on April 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th. Students take the assessment in the morning and the first session begins shortly after announcements, so **students' prompt arrival to school on these mornings is paramount.**

MAP Schedule Changes

We will switch schedules with second grade during the week students will take the MAP test. This schedule change will be in effect from April 21st through April 25th. Our special classes during those two weeks be from 2:20 to 3:20 instead of from 9:50 to 10:50 to allow students' extended time to complete sections of the test in the morning. Students will go to recess and lunch at 11:10 to 11:50.

MAP Fuel

To fuel the brains of our learners during the MAP assessment, thank you for ensuring that your child eats a healthy, filling breakfast each morning on testing days (and always).

At school, we will continue this attention to brain fuel by allowing extra snacks and water breaks on testing days. .

***Please send these items with your child during our MAP testing days of April 3rd, April 4th, April 5th, April 10th, April 11th, and April 12th:**

- Extra snack of fruit such as grapes, apples, or berries for the morning testing session (Brain research supports the sugars in fruits as beneficial snacks for positive brain functioning and test performance.)
- Sports cap (pull-out) water bottle filled with water (A sports cap instead of a screw-top cap will prevent water spills onto test booklets.)