

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2018

With November memories behind us and more holiday festivities ahead, we will need to rally and be sure that schoolwork and commitment to the Monday - Friday schedule is maintained.

GRADE 3 CONFERENCES have been rescheduled for December 7th (your time slot will be the same as the original November date). Please refer to your DoJo message.

Please plan to arrive 5 minutes early to allow for parking and wait time (similar to arriving for a dr. appointment). Conferences will be kept to a strict 15 minute slot, due to accommodating 27 families.

Reading -- Your child reads with a specific and targeted reading group throughout the week to work on word building, comprehension and fluency. Ask your child which book he/she is reading and the skills that are being taught.

Please continue to read for 20 minutes each night as part of reading for enjoyment for a lifetime.

Students are working on the skill of assigning character traits based on actions and context clues in their daily reading. They also are citing parts of the text where these clues are located. For example: I can tell that John is grumpy because in paragraph 3 it says that he stomped up to his room and pouted when asked to come downstairs. In paragraphs 5 and 6 John continues to act angry because he finally tells his parents that he wasn't chosen to play Sparky in the school play. "I don't know why Ms. Bean didn't choose me, said John. "Nobody knows the lines like I do...even Henry agreed, and he's the one who go the role."

***PLEASE see that your child is practicing keyboarding at home. Students are encouraged to write as they think...just like using a pencil and paper but type their responses as their thoughts come to mind. This will take a while to get used to at first, but just like acquiring any new skill this is IMPORTANT. The more they do, they better they will become...and it is the expectation (not only for state testing) but for grade 4 as well.

Math -- Students will be expected to know and use all math multiplication facts 1 - 12 as we now are in the process of memorizing DIVISION facts. We will study area this month as review number stories. Second Quarter is the foundation for the rest of the school year. PLEASE quiz your child (10 minutes a day adds up over time).

We will continue to skip count, sing and complete math drills to help with memorization and familiarization of math facts.

Examples: $3 \times \underline{\quad} = 27$

27 divided by $\underline{\quad} = 3$

$\underline{\quad} \times 9 = 27$

$9 + 9 + \underline{\quad} = 27$

$$3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$27 \text{ divided by } 3 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

The more practice your child has with numeracy and deconstructing numbers, the more of an understanding they will have as they move up in the grades. This is extremely helpful to know!

Social Studies -- Students will continue to learn about the history of Massachusetts, its people and culture.

Writing-- We will continue to write informative essays as well as focus on literary analysis in our writing. We will delve deeper into characters actions and feelings, as well as cite where we find the information (example: In paragraph 8 it says...).

We will also look closer at author's craft and text features which include: table of contents, index, glossary, headings, bold words, sidebars, pictures and captions, and labeled diagrams.

We will continue to use STORYWORKS magazine to help with our weekly writing.

Look for your child's writing to be coming home and support your child as he/she TYPES their responses for homework.

CRAFT -A -THON --

We will be making REINDEER FOOD as our holiday craft. We need:

- *glitter (gold, silver, red, green)
- *red and green ribbon (the thin plastic type)
- *sandwich baggies (NO ZIP type)
- *oats (any brand is okay similar to the Quaker Oats)
- *red solo cups

Please let me know if you are available to help assemble the craft in class with the children.

_____ Yes, I'd like to help in class.
name of parent

_____ I would like to donate the following items:
name of parent

- *glitter * ribbon *oats *no-zip sandwich baggies

We will need to make 100 craft items for the Annual Craft - A - Thon and an additional 30 bags for the students to take home.

The date/time for assembling the bags will be _____.

** Our holiday song/performance will focus on us looking like we are train conductors. We are hoping that students may have the following items to wear or ask to borrow from friends/relatives:

*conductor type hat

*flannel shirt

*denim overalls or rolled jeans

Ms O Connell and I will be looking to purchase bandannas for the students to wear around their necks.

If YOU can support us with this project -- we'd be very appreciative. We're also open to any creative parents who may be able to help with scenery (possibly a cardboard train engine and caboose). Please let us know your thoughts!

Thank you for your support and on-going communication. When home and school work together, your child is the beneficiary.

As always,

Mrs. Benoit