

TO: THOSE AMAZING PARENTS
From: THE BENOIT BUNCH (and Mrs. Benoit!)
MARCH NEWS 2019

"In like a lion and out like a lamb," is living up to its prediction. We'll have to see how the rest of the month goes.

We are preparing for upcoming MCAS in April (ELA) and in May (Math) by using our class set of chromebooks and working on writing/answering multiple choice strategies. Please continue to see that your child is accessing the CLEVER portal for Typing Club, Envision, and other useful sites.

Reading: Students continue to read and respond to text of all genres such as: non-fiction, informational, fiction, and poetry. In class, we use our Common Core book to review units of study such as Central Message, Details and Descriptions, and most recently, Author's Purpose. In addition, students continue to meet weekly in specific and targeted reading groups with their reading teacher/s. Ask your child what book is being studied.

This month, we will review Parts of Speech, Onomatopoeia, Metaphors, and Similes.

****PLEASE** be sure that reading for 20 minutes is being done with fidelity. Enjoying reading and understanding text is something your child will benefit from, whether it be learning a new word, or imagining they are traveling to a new place, or following a favorite author or series, or connecting with why a character is behaving in a certain way.

Math: Students are working on several topics: measurement, fractional parts of a whole, and multi-step number stories. Be sure to review work that comes home and look for ways to make math come alive, such as cooking/baking (fractions $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$) and measuring items at home (to the nearest inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch). We are using the ENVISION program as well as Engage New York to review strategies and further our practice. Please review telling time to the minute at home with your child.

Your child should be reviewing MATH MULTIPLICATION/DIVISION facts to earn their "license." 100 random math facts will be asked, allowing your child a 10 second response time. Students should practice the facts that they may be experiencing difficulty with such as 12×8 or 7×9 ...etc. The objective of this "license test" is to inspire review and practice as well as memorization of facts that will carry them into the upper grades. The more familiar students are with multiplication/division fact mastery, the easier understanding they will have with fractions.

Social Studies: We are studying Puritan Life (1630s) and talking about The Salem Witch trials. Soon, we will move into The American Revolution. Miss P will be sending home scripts for PAUL REVERE's RIDE, a play, in which all students will participate.

Project's Fair: Students will create a MASSACHUSETTS box and write about a famous Massachusetts person (type written assignment) in which they will present in front of the class. The project will be divided into steps (to make each portion of the project easier to complete) with a completion date set for the fair in May. Students will be assigned a person (from pulling a name from a hat) to research and use (2) resources, such as books, videos, world wide web, etc) to gather information. They will also complete a Massachusetts Fact sheet and complete a map of the state.

Parents are encouraged to help (within reason) as this is the first time a third grader is completing such a detailed project. Be sure to allow your child to type his/her own report. They need the practice of keyboarding. Of course, you are allowed to proofread and help your child with editing. DO NOT encourage plagiarism or copying directly from the text without properly citing the text.

More information regarding this project will be coming home shortly.

Science: Students are writing in their Science Journals and using "science talk" to ask "why?" and "what if?" to drive their discoveries. Illustrating is a big part of this science learning. Currently, our class is learning mold. We also are using SRSD (self regulated strategy development) to write informational essays about mold.

Miss O Connell is conducting experiments with students using the scientific method.

Writing: Students will continue to be asked to write (or type) responses using techniques and strategies taught in class:

- *using part of the question in the answer
- *citing the text and backing up with proof
- *using CIA sentence frames, "This helps me understand," "this helps me visualize,"
- *recalling how to use details from the text to support the answer
- *marking up the text/reviewing the question/prompt (Am I answering the question correctly?)

Thank you for your continued support, kindness and generosity. When the home/school connection works, your child is the beneficiary.

Warmly,
Mrs. Benoit

I have read the MARCH 2019 Newsletter:

_____ Parent Signature

_____ Student Signature

