

TO: THOSE AMAZING PARENTS

From: Mrs. Benoit

September Newsletter 2019

Hello Parents and Welcome to Third Grade!

This is a busy and exciting time of year and I am so glad to be able to share this year with your child.

Norms and routines are a big part of Grade 3 as we are now heading into Week 3! This is the perfect opportunity to check in with your child. Respectful listening and participation are must dos.

Each morning, students in 3B recite an I AM statement (inside red folder)...this statement magnifies who we are as learners, friends, and classmates.

Students are working on adjusting to a larger class size (we have 24 students) and a busy schedule.

Time is extremely important this year as we are sharing it with Science and Social Studies, Typing and Writing.

This year, students will be taking the MCAS state exam online with keyboard responses. So, there will need to be technology practice (learning the keyboard and its functions as well as becoming familiar with the SHIFT key - how to capitalize letters and use punctuation) at home and in school. The more practice, the better.

Soon, students will be asked to type their own responses from home either from something previously written or discussed in class.

Our ART BLOCK schedule is as follows:

Monday -- Music

Tuesday - Art

Wednesday - Dance

Thursday- Gym and Drama

Please dress for Dance and Gym (sneakers, short-sleeve shirt), and bring a water bottle.

We have already begun a Writer's Journal -- which currently has students responding to quotes with their own feelings.

It's more of a free write. Students then share their thoughts and examples with a buddy in class.

Eventually, we will move to typing our thoughts as they "pop" into our heads.

Students also work in a daily Math notebook. The purpose is to review or introduce mathematical topics which will be reinforced during the week.

Students complete 4 math examples ranging in difficulty.

After 4 days of math notebook and review, an assessment is given on the fifth day.

This first month of teaching math is all about re-teaching. We will introduce the Envision math workbook soon, which will pick right up with multiplication. We will start with $\times 0$ and the Zero Property, $\times 1$ and the Identity Property and $\times 2$.

Students now know how to use their Touch Point strip (in red folder) to help them with skip-counting.

Multi-step number stories are BIG in third grade as is number sense. These past couple of weeks has been about thinking about numbers.

Rounding, place value, number lines are key concepts that are necessary for strategy development.

ADDITION and SUBTRACTION facts are a must know at this time of year. Students are now using logical thinking to help with patterning.

An example is thinking of an "8" as " $10 - 2$ " so... 0, 8, 16, 24 is thought of as... $0 + 10 - 2 = 8$, $8 + 10 - 2 = 16$,

$$16 + 10 - 2 = 24$$

This skill of thinking deeper about numbers will be important as students move into multiplication and repeated addition.

Students will be taking an in-class END OF THE YEAR math test (online) this September. Students are NOT expected to "know" all of the skills and strategies at this early start. They will re-take the same test in June 2019 to measure growth from September to June.

NOUNS (common nouns and proper nouns) and soon VERBS are this month's ELA focus, along with MAIN IDEA and FACTS and DETAILS.

This year, students will be reading mini-stories and articles, and writing in the READY COMMON CORE workbooks.

We work for 1 hour each day, reading and writing to fiction and non-fiction text.

EYES, EARS, BRAIN, MOUTH and FINGER are 5 must haves for successful reading this year!

"LOOK, LISTEN and LEARN" is our class motto.

Reading groups will begin shortly. Your child will work in smaller group settings 4 days/week with a reading teacher who will target specific needs of the group.

BOOK IN BAG is an expectation to help further the love of literature and fluency and comprehension.

"Worcester, the city that reads!" asks that students read for 20 minutes each night.

Social Studies and Science classes have started! The focus in each class will be to

acknowledge and expand upon discovery and questioning.



A field trip to Plimoth Plantation is booked for November 8th. Please be sure to have a CORI on file, if you wish to be in the field trip lottery.

The SRSD (Self Regulated Strategy Development) strategies, which began in Kindergarten, will continue to scaffold as students learn more about the writing process.

We now know that a paragraph is roughly 7 - 9 sentences long (or the size of a "long" in math).

We will use the TIDE (topic sentence, idea/detail x3, ending) graphic organizer.

Children in grade 3 will write 5 paragraph essays this year in response to prompts.

In class, students are learning to circle and underline using the DO/WHAT approach.



Ask your child all about it!

Both third grade classrooms meet 2x/week for SRSD (last period Mondays and Thursdays).

HOUSEKEEPING:

*please label sweaters/jackets (we own a lot of the same clothing brands)

*bring an easy, peanut-free snack for the classroom (fruits/veggie sticks, crackers...the more drippy and sticky the snack, the longer it takes to eat and clean up -- please save these snacks for the cafeteria)

*please check your child's homework folder for important work/bulletins

*all parents have signed on to DoJo (thank you) which will help save on notices/bulletins

*sign agendas nightly

*\$15 is due (to cover cost of your child's red folder, agenda, hard-cover poetry book, holiday t-shirt, SCHOLASTIC News magazine)

WISHLIST:

*parent volunteer/s to help with tasks (in class or from home)

Thank you for your continued support. The class has received many donations (gallon-size baggies, cleaning supplies, post-it notes, paper towels, markers, etc).

Your generosity goes beyond words.

Also, thank you for your interest in Grade 3. I look forward to having a great year with your student,

ummmm...I mean your child!



~ Mrs. Benoit

