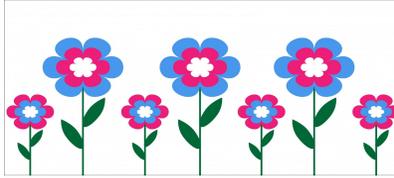


THIRD GRADE APRIL NEWSLETTER



We have begun a new Author Study in reading. We have read a few books written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco and will continue reading others for the next few weeks. Patricia Polacco grew up spending summers on her grandparents' farm in Michigan, listening to stories about relatives who came from Ukraine, Russia, and Ireland. The influence of her family history and her family's storytelling tradition are reflected in her books. Patricia Polacco struggled with reading when she was a young girl, and her work often features characters who are faced with difficult challenges or who feel different or misunderstood. We are analyzing characteristics that are common to the texts and are noticing similar illustrations.

Both classes are using the online version of our Massachusetts Our Home book. We will be spending more time completing various activities including short research projects for the different areas of study in our social studies book.

In math, we will be starting our new unit on perimeter. Area (our last unit of study) and perimeter can easily be confused. During this unit we will be discussing some of the following questions to help students understand the difference between area and perimeter: How is area important (or used) in the everyday world? How is perimeter important (or used) in the everyday world? How can you find the area of a rectangle? How can you find the perimeter of a polygon?

We continue to work on the multiplication facts. Everyday students complete some work in Xtramath. Many of the students are still working on addition in Xtramath, and at this point in the year should be in the multiplication portion. Students need to complete the addition and subtraction portions before getting to multiplication. Please talk to your child about where they are

in Xtramath. Any extra time with Xtramath would be helpful to help students get to the multiplication portion of the program.

In science we will be starting our unit on Force and Motion. This unit will give students a new understanding of the invisible pushes and pulls that operate in the world around them. They will realize that understanding forces will let them do surprising things. What students learn in this unit will connect to the world around them, leading them to think about such things as the force of friction as they slide down a playground slide or the invisible force that makes magnets cling to the refrigerator.

Important Dates:

April 5-9 All families must fill out a new learning model selection form

April 6 WT PTO 6pm to 7pm via Google Meet

April 19-23 April Vacation Week

May 3 WPS opens up for full in person learning, 5 days a week
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