

Third Grade News



Thurgood Marshall Elementary School

September 2017

Here are some of the topics we have been working on in third grade, as well our units of study for the month of September.

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

Starting in September, students read to analyze how ideas develop and connect throughout a text. They create and follow rules for respectful group discussions and explain consequences of violating rules in order to participate in collaborative discussions. Students examine common themes found in literature and how characters behave in texts. They read and discuss the characteristics of realistic fiction and the character's influence on the sequence of events. Students make connections to social studies by describing ways characters contribute to the common good. Students make inferences and predictions to identify a personal point of view about characters' actions or sequence of events in literary text.

In writing, students are working together to pre-write and organize a narrative about a time when they did something for the common good. Students will create titles for their stories using correct capitalization and will substitute common and proper nouns with pronouns to make their writing more exciting for the reader. Students will also compare the conclusions they have written to those of published authors to improve their writing.

Math

During the month of September students use place value understandings to round numbers to the nearest 10 or 100. They also use place value understandings and properties of operations to strengthen their strategies for addition and subtraction within 1000. In Grade 3,

students will strengthen understandings from second grade by looking for and explaining patterns in addition tables and in written methods. Students will work towards fluency and the use of more efficient strategies. When a student adds and subtracts fluently, methods are efficient, accurate, and flexible. Students may not require the use of concrete models, pictures, or counting strategies to achieve fluency. However, as students work towards fluency, it may be necessary to provide scaffolds or opportunities for students to use models or drawings as needed.

Science

Third grade is piloting a new curriculum based on the Next Generation Science Standards for science. In September we will be exploring how objects are impacted by gravity and the concepts of force and motion. Students will explore what happens when various objects are dropped and will record their observations. Students will create ramps to observe the motion of balls. They will measure the distance the ball travels, how long the ball takes to move, and the direction the ball travels and use this information to predict the motion a ball might take. Students will engage in a discussion about a tug of war competition to reinforce balanced and unbalanced forces. Next, students will investigate balanced and unbalanced forces in a guided inquiry exploration with a ruler and a ball. After that, students will use their knowledge to explain what occurs when forces are balanced or unbalanced. Lastly, students will show their understanding by explaining how balanced and unbalanced forces work in the game of bowling. The students can extend their learning by conducting investigations of balanced and

unbalanced forces using items within the classroom or at home.

Social Studies

Social studies begins by exploring the definition and examples of American democratic principles. Students begin the year by examining the roles of individuals, groups, and leaders in a democratic society. They consider rules, laws, and rights and responsibilities of citizens within the classroom and community today through the lens of making a positive difference by taking action. These foundations lead students to explore the basic functions of governments and how they create structure through laws, enforce laws and interpret laws. Students examine the selection process and role of local government leaders today in Montgomery County and in the past government of the Roman Republic.

Other

Email your child's teacher:

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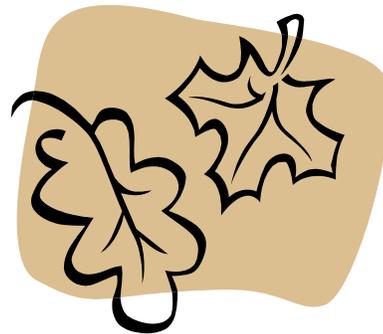
Mrs. Thomason

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Third Grade Wishing Well

The third grade teachers would appreciate any donations that you would like to send in. Below are a few suggestions:

- Cardstock
- Baggies
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Tissues
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- Black expo markers



Important Dates

September 21 No School for students -
Professional Day for teachers

October 6th Early Release Day