



Third Grade Newsletter

Important Reminders

- January 1: Happy New Year! School is closed
- January 2: Return to school after winter break
- January 9: Grade 5 picture day for senior pictures
- January 15: School closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 18: Parent Workshop 6:00 pm on zoom: Social Emotional support

Leader in Me

This month we will focus on Habit 4, Think Win-Win.



Writers Workshop

The third writing unit is titled: Changing the World. Throughout the course of this unit, the students will come to see that their passionate opinions, and their bold declarations, are strengthened by thoughtful reasoning and evidence. They will grow more sophisticated in considering the audience and realizing that they can tailor their opinions to be most convincing to particular audiences. And they will come to see the power in language and word choice as they make careful decisions about how to write with power.

Readers Workshop

Our third unit is titled Character Studies. From a structural standpoint this unit first engages children, inviting them to think more deeply about things that are somewhat familiar. Then it puts them in new territory and challenges them to rise to new thinking. Finally, it positions them to apply what they have learned to new situations. We will begin the powerful read aloud *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo! We cannot wait!

Phonics

In Phonics, we are in Unit 2. In Unit 2, your child will learn about words with closed syllables, as in napkin, and open syllables, as in radio. Your child will also review other types of syllables, including final stable syllables, as in riddle and motion; vowel team syllables, as in season and rainbow; r-controlled vowel syllables, as in garden and winter; final e syllables, as in hopeful and invite; and unaccented final syllables, as in gallon and captain.

Math

This month we are in Unit 4. This unit is all about multiplication and area. We will be learning how to find the area of a closed array where there are boxes inside of the array to a closed array where they use the length and width to find the area of a rectangle or square.

Social Studies

We will be finishing our work in world geography and cultures. Students have examined a variety of geographic tools to develop an understanding of the meaning of geography and its purposes. Students will start to identify and explain how people use natural resources in order to meet their needs. Also, they will identify and discuss the elements of culture in a world community, then compare and contrast a culture to personal experience.

Science

We are wildlife biologists will investigate how organisms get their traits. This is an unspoken question that underlies things many of us wonder about beginning at an early age, such as *Why does my sibling have curly hair whereas mine is straight? How come I am shorter than others in my family? Why is my sister a faster runner than I am?* In the *Inheritance and Traits: Variation in Wolves* unit, students dive deep into exploring patterns in the traits of organisms to answer the question of how those traits come to be. Students assume the role of wildlife biologists helping a class of students near the fictional Graystone National Park to solve the mystery of Wolf 44—a wolf they have observed to be different from the rest of its pack, which serves as the anchor phenomenon for the unit. As wildlife biologists, students work to figure out how Wolf 44 got its traits.

Home Connection

Math: Study your multiplication facts!

Writing: During writing students will be asked to persuade others to feel the way they do about a topic. Ask them about a topic they feel passionate about and have them persuade you why they like it.

Book Comprehension: When reading with your child, don't forget to have conversations with them about what they read. Ask them to retell the story in order and only what is important. Ask them Who, What, Where, When and Why questions. Nonfiction books have them tell you 5 facts that they read.

