

# Third Grade News



Here are some of the topics we will be working on in third grade, as well as our units of study for the month of November.

## Reading/Writing/Language Arts

In November of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, students explore how readers gather main ideas or central messages from text. They read to analyze how ideas develop and connect throughout a text. In early November, students examine how events unfold and how theme is developed in poetry. They discuss how poets convey point of view or theme and engage the reader using literal and nonliteral language such as similes and metaphors. Towards the end of November, students draw on knowledge of story structure to analyze plays. They learn how playwrights communicate a central message by capturing the voice of the characters being portrayed and how this portrayal helps the audience understand the message.

In writing, students use inquiry approach to gather ideas, draft, revise, edit, produce and present narrative, informative, and opinion texts throughout the second marking period. Sample learning tasks include the writing process and the 6+1 Traits of Writing instruction. In order to develop students as writers, all the 6+1 Traits of Writing are explicitly taught during marking period 2. Speaking and listening are embedded throughout the writing process: to rehearse ideas, confer, and present published work. Grade 3 students use a compare and contrast text structure to organize ideas. Students draw on prior knowledge about using descriptive techniques to emphasize a message to compose different text types. Students will also make connections between reading and writing through poetry. They compare ideas using sentence level comparisons such as, similes and metaphors.

## Math

Continuing into the second marking period, students will focus on multiplication and division within 100. Students continue to develop an understanding of the meanings of multiplication and division of whole numbers through tasks and problems involving equal-sized groups, arrays, area models, problem situations, and equations. Students use increasingly sophisticated strategies such as the properties of operations and the relationship between multiplication and division to solve multiplication and division problems involving single-digit factors. Beginning in December, the focus will shift to meeting the expectation that, by the end of Grade 3, students know all products of two 1-digit numbers from memory.

Throughout instruction of multiplication and division there is sustained emphasis on developing depth of understanding and encouraging students to explain and be flexible with their strategies. As students develop conceptual understanding, they will relate pictorial (e.g., bar diagrams, number line drawings, arrays) and abstract (e.g., equations, letter standing for the unknown quantity) representations to multiplication and division problem situations. As students' exhibit proficiency with a variety of multiplication and division problem situations and problem structures in Grade 3, their methods progress from direct counting to additive calculation to multiplicative calculation. Students understand and are able to use the terms *groups*, *sets*, *rows*, and *columns* as related words representing the concept of equal groups. Grade 3 students are responsible for the terms *product* and *quotient*, but not the terms *factor*, *dividend*, and *divisor*.

## Science

As part of our new science curriculum, we will be shifting the focus from physical science to earth science. Students observe a topographical map of the Earth to identify landform patterns such as mountain chains. They will use a tectonic map and a landform map to make a connection between tectonic plates and landforms (volcanoes, mountains, ocean floor). Students will explore the phenomena of rock formations, focusing on Calvert Cliffs in Maryland. Focusing on the types of fossils in the rock layers will help scientists determine how old the rock layers are. Students will continue to develop their understanding of the phenomena of fossils by examining different views of the Grand Canyon. This will help them understand that where fossils are found in the sedimentary layers reveals changes to the rock over time. It will also help them understand the past and how fossils can help develop a better understanding of life in the distant past. They will then examine different types of fossils through the use of the fossil kits.

## Social Studies

Instruction in the first week of the new marking period will focus on the Health Education topics of safety and injury. Students evaluate the components of home emergency kits, practice accessing emergency services, and demonstrate personal safety strategies. Basic first aid procedures are practiced to provide a foundation for student response to injury. Strategies to avoid harassment including bullying and teasing are evaluated. Additionally, students expand their understanding of geography by comparing places and regions around the world. In November, students learn about the role of basic infrastructure in developing and expanding cities through the exploration of natural/physical and human-made features, as well as, population distribution in Montgomery County, Maryland, the United States, North America, and the world. The critical thinking skill of evaluation is developed as students select and justify their choices of the Seven Wonders of Montgomery

County, Maryland, the United States, North America, and the world.



## Other

Teachers can always use your donations!

Here are some suggestions:

- Expo markers
- Card Stock
- Tissues
- Paper Plates, bowls and napkins
- Clorox wipes
- Paper towels

Please feel free to email your child's teacher with any questions, comments or concerns you may have.

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## ***Important Dates***

**November 5 Daylight Saving Time**

**November 9** Early Release @ 1:20PM, Report Card Preparation

**November 10 & 17** Early Release @ 1:20PM  
Parent/Teacher Conferences

**November 15-16 Mad Science "Moving Motion"**  
In School Field Trip

**November 22** Report Cards Go Home

**November 22** Early Release @ 1:20 PM, Holiday

**November 23-24** No School, Thanksgiving