

Third Grade News

February 2021

Curriculum Matters

Reading- The third graders are continuing Unit Three: *Reading to Learn*. In this unit, students are reading and analyzing nonfiction texts. Students are identifying main ideas, recognizing text structures, and thinking critically as they read. Students are also analyzing narrative nonfiction texts and learning to shift between reading with a lens of story and reading with a lens of understanding information from texts.

Writing- Students are working on the art of *informational writing*. In this unit, students are learning a structured, written-to-learn, expert-based project. They will be writing texts that aim to teach others about topics on which the students have expertise. Students will be taught many different ways to elaborate on their topics. The third graders enjoy this unit.

Math- This month, students will begin learning about fractions in *Chapter 8: Understand Fractions*.

Important vocabulary: denominator, numerator, fraction, whole, halves, thirds, fourths, and eighths.

Social Studies- Students are continuing their study of Peru this month. They will be exploring the Peruvian culture. This includes the foods, clothing and customs of Peru.

Science- Students will continue with our Inheritance and Traits unit. In Chapter 1, students learn that they will take on the role of wildlife biologists working to understand why one wolf in a fictional national park, Wolf 44, looks different from the others in its pack. Students are introduced to the question that frames their learning in this chapter: Why are wolves different even though they are all the same species? Students will observe similarities and differences in traits between increasingly closely related organisms. They are introduced to the concept that organisms in a species have similar traits, but there is also variation in those traits. Students then observe and reflect on their own traits as humans.

Important vocabulary: organism, pattern, trait, species, variation, observe, data, explanation

Important Dates!

- February 12th - Lunar New Year (School Closed)
- February 15th – 19th Mid-Winter Recess (School Closed)

Reminders

- Students should be practicing their multiplication and division facts every day.
- Students should be reading for at least **thirty minutes** each night!