

Third Grade News

March 2021

Curriculum Matters

Reading - The third graders have begun Unit Four: Character Studies. This unit spotlights the study of characters and will bring students on a journey similar to the one that characters go on in books. Students will read *Because of Winn-Dixie* and get to know characters by studying them deeply. They will come up with ideas about characters and will then investigate patterns that reveal deeper character traits and motivations. Students will also be using evidence from the text to develop theories about characters.

Writing – Students are beginning the Baby Literary Essay Unit. This unit will introduce students to the art of writing literary essays. Students will learn to develop ideas about the characters and lessons in the stories they are reading and will then work to write these ideas to interest and persuade others. They will learn to state a big, bold opinion, back up their ideas with evidence, and include a brief introduction and conclusion in their writing.

Math- This month students will be completing Chapter 8: Understand Fractions. They will then be moving to Chapter 9: Compare Fractions. Students will compare fractions with the same denominator and numerator, order fractions, and investigate equivalent fractions.

Important vocabulary: denominator, numerator, equivalent

Social Studies- This month, students will continue learning about Peru by studying Peru's government. They will be making connections to how their government and culture both past and present are related. Students will also be identifying similarities and differences between the Peruvian government and the government and history of the United States.

Science- Students continue to 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. In Chapter 2, students are introduced to a second wolf pack in the park, the Bison Valley Pack, and investigate the question Why is Wolf 44's color similar to one pack but different from the other? Students begin to investigate where organisms get their traits.

Important Dates!

- March 3rd – Virtual Evening Parent Teacher Conferences (4:30 PM – 7:00 PM)
- March 4th- Virtual Afternoon Parent Teacher Conferences (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)
- March 29th – April 2nd – Spring Recess

Reminders

- Students should be practicing their multiplication and division facts every day.
- Students should be building stamina in reading by increasing their reading time to **forty minutes** as part of their nightly homework.