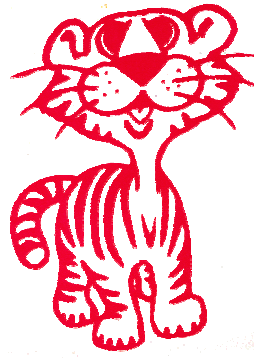


February 22, 2011

# The NEWS From MS. White's 3rd Grade

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## Math



I hope you enjoyed the Valentine's math craft we did during our party! The students used candy canes, marshmallows and candy hearts to create rotations (turns), translations (slides), and reflections (flips).

We have started our geometry unit and are learning all about two dimensional shapes (square, circle, octagon, hexagon, triangle, rectangle) and three dimensional solids (cube, sphere, pyramid, prism, cone, cylinder). Our concepts can be found in Chapter 7 of our math textbook.

We have also worked on the vocabulary of symmetry, congruent and similar. Students know what parallel lines and intersecting lines look like. They have also learned to identify an acute, obtuse and right angle. They are so MATH SMART!!!

## Reading/Language Arts

Chris VanAllsburg is our featured author this week. Ask you child about the story they are reading in class. Our skill focus this week is on identifying story elements, which the students should be great at since we spent so much time working on this skill during writer's workshop. We will also improve our decoding and vocabulary by studying prefixes and root words. Homophones are spelling skill that will be our focus this week and next week as well.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The dates for the ISAT testing have been changed. We will take the test the weeks of March 7th-March 11th. If you have scheduled appointments or other events that will cause your child to be out of school, please let me know as soon as possible. Every student at Stevenson Elementary is REQUIRED to take all parts of the test. We will have to make plans for getting all test completely finished. Thank you for your help and understanding on this matter.

## This Week's Homework & Announcements

Every night: Read at least 30 minutes with your child.  
BOOK-IT : Due on March 1st!

MATH: Keep working on 0's, 1's, 2's, 5's and 9's basic facts for multiplication and division. Quiz your child often!

Spelling: NO SPELLING this week! No School Friday, February 18, or Monday, February 21.

**ISAT change of testing dates because of snow days. New dates are March 7th-March 11th!**

# Science

Mrs. Dawson

Last week we finished up the chapter by making the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper constellations. The children have learned a lot of new information about patterns in the sky.

This week we will do a chapter review on Tuesday and have a Chapter 15 test and vocabulary quiz on Wednesday. Hopefully we will be able to go over the test and the quiz on Thursday. That will give us an opportunity to have an introduction to Chapter 16 "The Solar System". In this chapter the students will discover how the sun makes heat and light, how the planets move in space, and learn what is special about of the eight planets.

Now that we are discussing the solar system, it would be a great time to encourage your child to check out a nonfiction book. It is important to read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

# Social Studies

Mrs. Cottrell

Last week students learned that bystanders are not always kids. In episode 6, "Dented Locker, Bruised Feelings," Jeff was directly bullied by Kevin and his clique. The bullying became physical and Jeff was pushed into a locker, hurting his head. The school janitor had finally had enough and chose not to stand by any longer. He took Jeff to the school nurse to report what had happened. We will continue to listen to Jeff's Journey this week, so be sure to ask your student what they learned from episode 7.

# Writer's Workshop

Ms. White

The students have written a paragraph on a topic they are experts on. The paragraph was to include a main idea, at least three supporting details and specific word choice for expressing how the author felt about the topic. The students were also to use a concluding sentence to wrap up their writing piece. I know that they have read paragraphs in Social Studies, Science, Reading and Writing classes that prepared them for being strong writers.

Please review the rubric with your child when they bring it home this week. Discuss their strengths as emerging writers and identify where they can improve. There will be a reflection sheet with each paragraph for the children to complete with a parent/guardian and bring back to school. Return the reflection sheet on March 1st. Thank you!