

August 30, 2010

The News From Ms. White's 3rd Grade

Welcome to the 2010-2011 School Year

What a wonderful thrill to be your child's third grade teacher! We have such amazing learning scheduled for this year and I'm excited to have you on this journey with us. Thank you for setting aside time to come in and meet with me for Open House night. I've enjoyed getting to know the students and families.

Please take time to look through the Tiger Folder. You will find graded work and clothing order forms along with the fall fundraiser materials.

We will begin the weekly spelling work in mid-September when all the third grade teachers have completed the pre-testing. We have several more words for our pretest and will be working on these daily this week. No spelling homework this week.

Remember that Monday, September 6, is Labor Day so there is No School!



Reading

Speaking of adventures, that is what our first unit in reading is all about! We are reading Cliff Hanger in our reading textbook. Skills we will work on this week include: predicting, cause and effect relationships, reading with fluency and comprehension. Please read each evening for at least thirty minutes. Your child can read by his/herself or you could read aloud with them. Reading daily will make your child a stronger reader!

Math

The first unit of study in math will be addition, subtraction and place value. The children were really good with adding using doubles. Students are learning about using tens to add more efficiently. We are trying to do the math in our heads and not on our hands. This week we will work really hard on our basic skills for addition and subtraction. Thursday and Friday we will take Jiffy Quizzes which are basic fact recall activities. You will see these in the Tiger Folder next week!

Special points of interest:

- > Please fill out the surveys from Open House night. If you want an anonymous feedback form, just let me know and I will send one home.
- > If you missed Open House, your child brought home materials on Friday. Please return the forms and let me know when you would like to come in and tour our classroom.
- > FALL FUNDRAISER DUE SEPTEMBER 14
- > Tiger Clothing Orders DUE SEPTEMBER 15

Social Studies

Mrs. Cottrell

Last week we started our first chapter. In this chapter we are trying to figure out where our community is in relationship to the world. This week we will discover what a community is, and that it is located on the Earth. We will look closely at the hemispheres of the earth and will begin looking at its continents, oceans, and countries this week. Overall, this chapter is helping us become skilled map readers.



Writer's Workshop

Ms. White



For our first week of Writer's Workshop, the students did a descriptive writing of their shoe. We were able to include all sorts of details ranging from the color to the texture to the size. Our third graders are amazing writers and I'm excited to be working with them this year. This week we will focus on the mechanics of sentences so we understand subject, predicate, exclamation, questions, commands and statements.

Science

Mrs. Dawson



We have been learning about the Science Process Skills and completing activities with some of the skills. Collecting data and classifying are a couple of activities that were practiced.

The first chapter in the Life Science unit is Plants and How They Grow. In this chapter we will discover ways parts of a plant help it survive, different types of plants, different ways plants make more plants, and how plants have changed over time.

Today we will work on creating vocabulary cards for the new words the children will be tested on at the end of the chapter. Our lessons this week will cover practicing compare and contrast with plants and animals, learning the main parts of a plant, and taking a close look at leaves. I am asking the children to bring in leaves on Friday. Be sure to press the leaves by putting something heavy over the leaves to flatten them, otherwise they curl up real bad. (I usually put mine under magazines or a book.)