

Third Grade Monthly Newsletter

November/December 2018

3rd Edition

Dates to Remember

December 11-Picture Make ups
December 12- Early Release
December 21- Winter Sing Along
and Class Celebrations
December 24-Jan 4 -Winter Break

What We Are Learning

Reading - We are working hard on reading to learn using nonfiction texts! We've learned how to preview texts and prepare ourselves for what we might learn using text features, as well as finding main ideas and supporting details by using headings and "pop-out" sentences. We've also learned that teaching others about a nonfiction topic is a great way to guide our reading to find the most important information. (SOLs: 3.1d-g, 3.4a-g, 3.5a, 3.6ba-j)

Writing -We've begun writing an informational text about a topic of our choice. We've learned how to "prime the pump" for our writing by teaching others about our topic, and borrowing teaching techniques to share information with our readers. We've also learned about the power of organization and have explored different text structures as ways to organize our texts: main idea/supporting details, pro/con, compare/contrast, cause/effect, and problem/solution. We've also learned about how to set up a logical table of contents, how to elaborate by examining mentor texts, and choosing the best text structure for each chapter. (SOLs: 3.8a-j, 3.9a-k, 3.10a-f)

Social Studies- We've begun exploring ancient China by examining artifacts from the traveling trunk, provided by George Mason University. Students are putting their historical skills to the test as they try to infer what artifacts are made of and what they could've been used for.

Math - Fractions: Part 1 - Number Sense (Unit 3). We have begun our unit on fractions. The focus has been on students naming and writing fractions and mixed numbers represented by a model. They are also working on creating models to represent fractions, as well as, comparing fractions with like and unlike denominators. (SOLs 3.2a-c)

Science- We are continuing to investigate questions through experimentation, with focus on observing, predicting, hypothesizing, and modeling. Through planning and conducting investigations, students will demonstrate and understanding of scientific reasoning, logic, and the nature of science (SOL 3.1)

A Sneak Preview

★ **Reading**-Reading to learn (nonfiction): reading with a different lens depending on the type of text (narrative vs. expository), distinguishing the author's opinion from ours, identifying when a text is a hybrid of narrative and expository text structure. (SOLs: 3.1d-g, 3.4a-g, 3.5a, 3.6ba-j)

★ **Writing**- Informational writing: Balancing facts and ideas, researching facts and ensuring text accuracy, reusing and recycling in the revision process, and putting oneself in the reader's shoes to clear up confusion. (SOLs: 3.8a-j, 3.9a-k, 3.10a-f)

★ **Social Studies**- Ancient China, government systems, geography

★ **Math**-Addition and Subtraction - Pt. 2 (Unit 4) /Money (Unit 5)

★ **Science**- Ecosystems and Interactions (SOL 3.6-Unit 4)/ Earth and its Moons (SOL 3.8 b,c-Unit 3)

Resources:

PTA Website:

<https://oakridge.apsva.us/pta/family-websites/>

Math:

<https://play.dreambox.com/login/bqt4/6d9r>

Reading: <https://www.mackinvia.com/>

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