

Third Grade Monthly Newsletter

March/April 2019

6th Edition

Dates to Remember

April 1: No school (Grade Prep)
April 15-19: Spring Break
April 22-26: Coates/Driscoll Swimming
April 29-May 3: Fahrenthold/Welch Swimming

What We Are Learning

Reading - Students are wrapping up our unit on character studies in fiction texts. Students worked on identifying and discussing the importance of plot events through the use of story mountains, and compared characters and story elements across different books. Students focused on finding text evidence to explain character traits they identified, as well as theories they developed about characters (SOLs: 3.3b, 3.4 c-f, 3.5 a-m).

Writing - Students have been writing adaptations of fairy tales, focusing on adding descriptive details to their stories, creating problems that their characters are facing and creating resolutions to their stories. Students are working on smooth editing (combining short, choppy sentences into longer, more fluid sentences) and generating multiple ideas for stories before choosing one to fully develop (SOLs: 3.8 a-h, 3.9 d,e,g,h,i).

Social Studies - Students learned about ancient Egypt and Greece. They explored each civilization's geography, how the geography impacted the society's development, as well as major contributions such as the 365-day calendar, clocks (sundials and water clocks), pyramids, papyrus; Greek pottery, the Parthenon, columns (doric, ionic, Corinthian), direct democracy, and the Olympics. Students compared ancient and modern Olympics as well as direct and representative democracy (SOLs: 3.2, 3.3 3.5a-c, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9)

Math - Students are studying geometry. They began with a focus on the terms angle, point, ray, line, line segment, and vertex; and being able to identify examples of each (SOL 3.11). We are currently discussing and combining polygons (triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, nonagon, and decagon) (SOL3.12).

Science - We concluded our simple machines unit. Students discussed the purpose of each simple machine and identified simple machines found in school and at home. They also identified and classified simple machines that compose a compound machine, then built examples of simple machines. Students will now investigate and understand the physical properties of objects. We will also explore patterns and cycles that occur in nature, such as the phases of the moon.

A Sneak Preview

- ★ **Reading**- Research clubs (nonfiction)
- ★ **Writing**- Persuasive speeches, petitions and editorials
- ★ **Social Studies**- Ancient Rome & Ancient Mali
- ★ **Math**- Unit 8 : Geometry (S.O.L. 3.13); Unit 11: Data and Probability
- ★ **Science**- Sources of energy (SOL 3.11), importance of soil(SOL 3.7), and the water cycle (SOL 3.9)

Resources:

PTA Website:

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

Math:

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

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

Contacting the team

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