

November 29, 2007

Dear Third Grade Parents,

Thank you all for attending our Farm Breakfasts this week. It was wonderful for us to watch your children as they shared their experiences and their hard work with all of you. They did a great job capturing the trip in their newspaper articles and we are very proud of all that they learned and accomplished.

Now that curriculum night, the farm trips, and conferences are all complete, we thought we would send a letter to let you know recent curriculum highlights and upcoming units of study. We plan to send a letter regularly to keep you all informed and involved.

In Social Studies, the third graders have been hard at work on their Native American research. They are currently researching the many plants and animals that lived in the Northeast Woodlands to better understand the natural resources available to the Native Americans. In addition to researching the types of plants and animals, students are also investigating the many ways in which people used these resources in their daily life. As we take a closer look at daily life over the next month or so, children will build on this knowledge to better understand how environment influences the way people live.

We have completed our first math unit, Things that Come in Groups. Children identified patterns in skip counting, explored multiplication and division word problems, and were introduced to multiplication facts up to  $10 \times 10$ . We will continue to practice facts with the class in school and expect them to practice at home as well. Each week, we will have a multiplication quiz to help make these facts more automatic. The third graders are now enjoying a quick unit on telling time, which will wrap up at the end of this week. They are learning to tell time to the minute! If you have an analog watch or clock, we encourage you to give your child opportunities to practice this new skill at home. Next week, we will begin a geometry unit.

In reading and writing, we are beginning non-fiction units. Children have begun to explore non-fiction texts in reading and in Social Studies and we will continue to discuss the components of various types of non-fiction texts. We will be adding to our non-fiction library to encourage children to explore a variety of texts both during reading time and in their free time. In writing, children have begun to brainstorm topics that interest them and to think about what they know about these different topics. Over the next few weeks, they will begin to focus on a specific topic and will research that topic to become an expert. They will then write their own non-fiction text about this topic.

We look forward to another busy and productive month in December!

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team

Elaine, Alison, Ana, Lisa and Susannah