**Math Workshop**

In math we have started our multiplication unit, which will last through the next quarter. Students are learning the foundations of multiplication right now such as repeated addition and arrays. The foundation of multiplication will be taught for the next three weeks and is very important for the students to understand before they start memorizing their multiplication facts. The 3rd grade teachers will let you know when to dust off your flash cards and start helping your students at home with memorizing their multiplication facts!

Math expressions vocabulary resource for parents/students:

<http://www.eduplace.com/parents/mthexp/g3/index.html>

**Reader’s Workshop**

This week we will be explaining character traits and making inferences while students are reading to build their comprehension skills. In K-2 students learned to identify the various story elements (character, setting, plot, etc.) This year we will be spending more time analyzing many of the literary elements (genre, plot, characters, mood, author's message, etc.) Right now we are focused on characters. Students are expected to make inferences about their character's physical, intellectual, social and emotional habits or traits.  In other words, students take what they know and combine this with what the text says and form their own thinking.

                        **Inference = what you already know  + clues from the text**

When you put these things together, you are creating new thinking or an inference about the character. The most important part is being able to support your inference with evidence from the text! Students are expected to use a fiction text to read about and describe their character by describing the following traits:

1. intellectual: What are they thinking? (not to be confused with how they are feeling)
2. physical: What do they look like? (pay attention to body language or descriptions!)
3. social: How do they act with others?
4. emotional: How do they feel?

**Helpful Links for Parents:**

<http://www.fcatexplorer.com/media/parent/tiplister/flash/tip121a.swf>

<http://www.brocktonpublicschools.com/page.cfm?p=2097>

Students may not use the same vocabulary, but we expect them to move past happy, mad or sad. They should be able to use the 4 descriptions above to create new thinking about their characters. The kids have more complex texts now. Their books will no longer just come out and say, "\_\_\_\_ is mad because..."

Students will also be learning more about strategies to decode multi-syllabic words using their knowledge of long and short vowel sounds. We are starting word work this week, which will strengthen the student’s skills in decoding multi-syllabic words, building their vocabulary and improving their writing skills.

**Writer’s Workshop**

We are continuing to build foundational skills in writing personal narratives. We have been studying a lot of mentor texts to give the students good examples of how to begin their stories and examples of writing that shows and not tells the reader what is going on in the story. They will write a personal narrative. They will use the writing process to draft a strong beginning, middle and ending. They will be expected to plan their writing using a narrative writing organizer.

**Science**

Students are studying about the human body. Last week, students estimated how many bones we have in our body by feeling them. They created a class estimate and then learned the actual number by visually studying them. This week, we are comparing animal and human bones. The students will also learn about joints and muscles throughout the unit.

**Time for Kids**

We have received our first issue of Time for Kids! Students will read the magazine and learn about current events while studying text features in non-fiction during their literacy block.

**Important Dates**

* Week of October 14th: International Book Fair
* October 17 & 18: Wiley Band Fall Concert
* October 18: Early Release Day

Important Dates Continued:

* October 23: 3rd Grade AIG Information/CogAT information (5:30 – 6:30 p.m.)
* October 25: Fall Portraits
* October 28: Teacher Workday (No School)

Make sure to check out your teacher’s website! There are many website links to additional learning resources in each class to help your student at home with all subjects!

Have a great week!

Mr. Robertson [website](http://mrrobertsonsclass.weebly.com)

Mrs. Hahner [website](http://hahnersworldwonders.weebly.com/)

Ms. Dow [website](http://wiley3rdgrade.weebly.com/)