It’s a new quarter! It’s amazing how fast half the year has gone by already!

We celebrated the end of our Objects in the Sky science unit by visiting the Morehead Planetarium! The students enjoyed making their own spaceships and rovers with a hands-on class. Their mission was to construct a shuttle that would safely land on the rocky surface of a planet. It was amazing to watch the students use common everyday items and to work collaboratively as a team to create their shuttles. Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to making it a perfect learning experience!

The third grade teachers are very excited to dive into the third quarter with our students. We have many innovative and exciting plans to integrate our new social studies unit on Economic and Financial Literacy. Here’s the update!

**Math Workshop**

Our math classes will be focusing on Area and Perimeter. Students will learn how to use area as an attribute of plane figures. They will also learn how to measure areas by counting unit squares (square cm, square m, square in, square ft, etc.) Students will be able to relate area to the operations of multiplication and addition. Lastly, students will solve real world and mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons. As part of our Economic and Financial Literacy Unit, students will use their knowledge of area and perimeter to design their own business. They will be asked to figure out what kind of space their business will need in order to be successful and to produce blueprints depicting the area and perimeter of their buildings.

This week the students will continue to take our weekly multiplication quizzes. Ask your child what set of facts they are working on this week! Please keep helping them at home with memorizing their facts!

**Reader’s Workshop**

This week we begin working on studying mysteries until mid-February! Students will explore the mystery genre along with poetry and drama. In whole group and small groups, students will discuss texts by referencing the text, asking and answering questions, and making inferences about the events or characters. Fluency will also be a focus as students use repeated readings with their chosen text.

**Writer’s Workshop**

Students will begin to learn how to write realistic fiction. Taking something real that happened in our everyday lives and adding to it, hence…realistic fiction!

They will be learning how to:

* Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
* Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
* Provide a sense of closure.

**Word Study**

The students will learn about r-controlled (ar and er) vowels this week Their quiz will be on February 7th. Students will be bringing home their word list to study from.

**Science & Social Studies**

Students will begin their Economic and Financial Literacy Unit. Vocabulary is very important in this unit. Students will be learning the following vocabulary words: goods, services, consumers, producers, productive resources, natural resources, human resources, capital resources, entrepreneur, scarcity, opportunity cost, Trade-offs, money, price, specialization, interdependence, productivity, profit, role of government, international trade. These vocabulary words are ideal for dinner conversation!

Students will:

* Explain how location impacts supply and demand
* Explain how locations of regions and natural resources influence economic development (industries developed around natural resources, rivers and coastal towns).
* Explain why people become entrepreneurs
* Give examples of entrepreneurship in various regions of our state.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

January 23 & 24 - Case 21 Benchmark Assessments

January 28, 6:30pm Third Grade Read to Achieve Parent Information

February 3- 7th – School Spirit Week

February 6 – Talent Show

February 14 – Early Release

February 17 – Teacher Work Day