**Math Workshop**

This week in math we will finish our area and perimeter unit. On Wednesday, we will launch into our new fractions unit. Students will be learning to:

* understand fractions as part of a whole
* understand and represent fractions on a number line
* explain equivalence of fractions
  + recognize and create equivalent fractions
  + express whole numbers as fractions
  + compare fractions (justify conclusions and reasoning about their size)

**Important vocabulary: fraction, unit fraction, numerator, denominator, equal groups, equivalent, partition, compare, whole**

Helpful Resources:

* Math Expressions eGlossary: [http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mthexp/g3/index.html#](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/mthexp/g3/index.html%23)
* National Library of Virtual Manipulatives: <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/grade_g_2.html>
* Virtual Fraction Manipulatives (Select 3rd grade and then fraction circles or tiles)

<http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/ebook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html>

**Keep up the practice with those multiplication facts!**

**Reader’s Workshop**

The students are in the process of wrapping up their final mystery projects. They have had a lot of fun reading mysteries and dissecting their unique components. We have enjoyed watching our young detectives deduce clues and explain evidence and conclusions. Each student is creating a board using Discovery Education Board Builder; these boards will be used during students presentations.

Next we will return to informational texts by studying biographies for about three and a half weeks.

Students will discuss the major events and relationships in a person’s life. They will explore how his or his actions and reactions teach us about their personal traits and motivations. Students will piece together the sequence of events in a person’s life. They will also recognize that certain choices have major effects for both themselves and those around them. Lastly, students will compare and contrast points of view.

Online biographies for students to read:

[Famous Leaders for Young Readers](http://gardenofpraise.com/leaders.htm)

[Biographies for Kids](http://mrnussbaum.com/bio2/)

**Writer’s Workshop**

We are working to draft, edit and revise our realistic fiction stories. Students are:

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

**Science & Social Studies**

This week students will begin exploring the structure and properties of matter before and after they undergo a change. Students will:

* Recognize that air is a substance that surrounds us, takes up space and has mass.
* Compare solids, liquids, and gases based on their basic properties.
* Summarize changes that occur to the observable properties of materials when different degrees of heat are applied to them, such as melting ice or ice cream, boiling water or an egg, or freezing water.

**Read Across America - - we would love full participation in 3rd grade!**

**Monday, March 3:** Newly purchased books will be displayed in the library and ready for check out! Ms. Molloy will visit as many classrooms as possible to book talk these new books.

**Tuesday, March 4:** Dress up as your favorite book character today! Prizes will be given for the best teacher and teaching team costumes. The class with the most participation will be entered in a prize drawing.

**Wednesday, March 5:** Promote literacy by bringing in a new toothbrush in its original packaging. The class with the most toothbrushes donated will be entered into a prize drawing.

**Thursday, March 6:** Bring in your overdue books! The class with the least number of overdue books by the end of the school day will be entered into a prize drawing.

**Friday, March 7:** Winners of all the classroom challenges and the See Spot Read drawing will be announced today!

**Read to Achieve Information for Parents:**

If you were not able to attend our parent information session last week, please make sure to check out the following website. It is important that you understand how the Read to Achieve Law impacts your child. <http://www.wcpss.net/parents/guides/read-to-achieve/>

**Boosterthon:**

Thank you for helping us support our students, our staff and school. We are truly excited about the great success of the Boosterthon. In order to make this success a reality, we need your help to collect the pledges that your child gathered. Please send them to school this week.

**Other Important Dates:**

March 7th: Don’t forget – a full day now (NOT an early release – snow day makeup)

March 13th: Curriculum Night

March 24: Spring pictures (individual and class)

March 28th: Snow day makeup

March 31st – April 4th : Spring Break!