**Math Workshop**

This week in math we will continue investigating fractions. During the first week of our fractions unit, students began learning key vocabulary and worked hard to understand fractions on a very concrete level. They made fraction cards and explored fractions using pattern blocks. This week, students will begin to see how fractions are used in everyday life. You can help your child begin to see fractions in your everyday routines, too:

* Point out measurements that are in fractions as you are cooking or looking at recipes
* Fractions when telling time – ½ past 8, a quarter till 5, etc.
* Sales while shopping

Let us know the other creative ways that you and your child recognize fractions in everyday life!

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

Don’t forget to check out these online 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! Mixed multiplication facts and division facts are coming up next!**

**Reader’s Workshop**

Students have finished their mystery units and are now studying biographies. The students read the biography of Deborah Sampson as a whole class and loved it! She was a secret soldier during the Revolutionary War. Students have chosen biographies to read on their own and are practicing many skills while they are reading. They are looking for character traits, learning lessons that can be taken from one’s life experiences, comparing and contrasting point of view, and they are learning to sequence events on a timeline.

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.

After students have finalized their realistic fiction stories and have published them, they will begin working on writing an autobiography including major events in their own lives. They will pick at least 5 big life events to include in their autobiographies and they will practice using detailed descriptions to make the reader feel as if they experienced those life events, too! **Please help your child to select these 5 events. It would be fun to look through old pictures together!**

**Science & Social Studies**

Students are so excited to do science experiments each day! They have been learning about molecules in solids, liquids, and gases. Students have discovered properties of each of these states of matter and have conducted science experiments to see how those properties change when the states of matter change (for example, when an ice cube melts, the shape changes).

Students are enjoying the hands on portion of the science curriculum and are investigating changes in the world around them!

**Curriculum Night**

Thank you to all of those who came to Curriculum Night on March 13th. All of the students and their families seemed to really enjoy discovering what each grade is studying and being able to participate in hands-on activities for each of those subject areas! The third grade team had a blast watching students and their families dissect owl pellets, make predictions about science experiments, explore equivalent fractions, and use their inferencing skills to solve a mystery!

**Upcoming Case 21 Dates**

Students will be taking the Case 21 assessments on March 25th and 26th.

* March 25th – Reading Assessment
* March 26th – Math Assessment

Please help us with the following, so your child will feel prepared. Students should:

* be well rested from the night before
* arrive at school by 9 am - so they have time to settle in
* have eaten a big breakfast

**Other Important Dates:**

March 24: Spring pictures (individual and class)

March 28th: Snow day makeup

March 31st – April 4th: Spring Break!