



THIRD GRADE



P.S 117

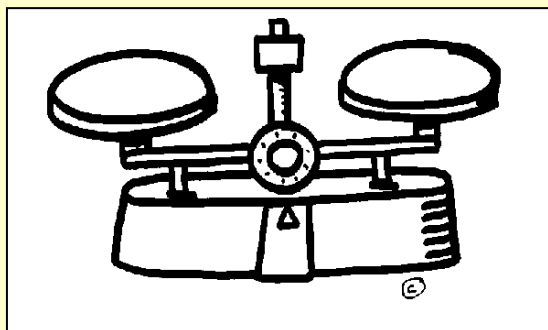
Briarwood, New York

Third Grade Curriculum
October 2010

Third Grade Curriculum Newsletter

Math

Our year in math begins with an important series of lessons about place value, odd and even numbers, comparing numbers using $>$ and $<$ signs, addition and subtraction. This knowledge serves as a foundation for the skills we will be learning this year. Our next unit will focus on adding and subtracting whole numbers. A lot of the concepts will be familiar from second grade; however, the numbers will become larger and more challenging. We will also be working with regrouping, a concept many third graders struggle with. Please take some time to practice these skills at home with your child



Science

The third grade will be learning metric measurements in science. We will explore the need for standard units. Our science kits are filled with scientific tools such as meter tapes, balances, graduated cylinders, syringes, and thermometers. We will use these tools for our hands-on investigations to measure length, mass, volume, and temperature.

Social Studies

Over the past few weeks we have tried to tackle the question "What is culture?" We have taken a closer look at the world using maps and have discussed aspects of our own culture. We are now ready to "pack our bags" and embark on our third grade world tour. We will be learning about other cultures by comparing them to our own. First stop, Asia!

Reader and Writer's Workshop

It's been a wonderful first month of school at P.S. 117 for our third grade students. In the beginning of the school year third grade concentrates on "Building a Reading Life". That means that we encourage our students to examine their reading. One way to do that is to ask questions such as: What are my favorite books and why? Where do I get my best reading work done? What sort of thinking do I tend to do as I read? What's difficult for me as a reader?

Some of the work we do early in the year include identifying our reading levels, learning how to select a book that is just right (not as simple as it sounds), and most importantly, learning how to monitor our thinking as we read. Asking questions as we read is one way we can grow and change our thinking, which of course is what LEARNING is all about!

The dedicated third grade teachers are working hard to deliver educational experiences that will increase student engagement so that your child will enjoy school and develop a passion for reading and learning. This month we are going to celebrate the new season by reading autumnal poems and stories outdoors in our school gardens. In doing so we hope to reinforce the notion that reading can and should be enjoyed in a variety of places.

You can support this work at home by creating an evening reading routine in your family. Try to establish a time when you and your child read alongside each other and talk about what you read. Even if you are only able to do this a few times a week, you will help your child grow as well as share precious time together.