



P.S 117  
Briarwood, New York  
Third Grade Curriculum  
January 2011

# Third Grade Curriculum Newsletter

## Math

This month, students will be introduced to multiplication with activities that help students understand the concept and purpose of multiplication. We will be studying multiplication in a variety of ways including investigating real-life situations, making numerical patterns, and writing multiplication story problems. Third graders will learn many strategies to reinforce the concept of multiplication. Students will use repeated addition, tile arrays, number lines and picture representations to solve multiplication problems. Students learn that the first number in a multiplication equation is the number of groups and the second number in the equation is the number in each group. Use counters or draw pictures to create a visual representation of the number sentence.

We will also connect multiplication to the world around us as we investigate and think about things that come in 2's, 3's, 4's., etc. We will use these objects to pose and solve problems. How many wheels on four bicycles? How many legs on eight spiders? When multiplication is connected to

## Social Studies

We began our study of Italy with an exciting trip to California Pizza Kitchen in the Atlas Park Mall. Each student made their own pizza and got a chance to go behind the scenes to explore the kitchen while we were there. As we continue our study of Italy we will be focusing on learning about cultural aspects of the beautiful Italian cities of Rome, Venice, Florence, and Pisa. We will continue to compare and contrast our own cultures with Italian cultures as we celebrate the Italian holiday Carnevale, and will learn about many of the country's famous landmarks.

## Science

Later this month the third grade will be bringing in and presenting their science fair projects for the very first time. We are excited to see the various experiments your children have conducted and will do our best to provide you with ample feedback. In science, we will be wrapping up our unit on metric measurement. We will begin to conduct experiments to learn how sound travels. We will use instruments such as tuning forks, and stethoscopes, along with homemade instruments to learn volume, pitch and other concepts.

## Reader and Writer's Workshop

Third grade readers are embarking on a new adventure, Book Clubs! We are ready to begin the challenging but satisfying work of reading and enjoying books with other students who are reading at similar levels. We will guide the students through all that this work entails such as planning, maintaining rigor and focus, and bringing our reading work to a more complex and deeper level. Book club work mirrors the sophisticated work that adult readers enjoy when they share literacy experiences together.

This month we are also beginning a new unit of study. Hard as it is, we will put down the mystery books we have been enjoying throughout December. We are ready to begin our "Series" work. Series refers to multiple books written by one author about the same characters, for example, Nancy Drew, Boxcar Children, Ramona Quimby. Our hope is that our students will be so interested with the first book that they will be eager to read the next book. Reading several books of a series is meant to boost engagement and increase reading stamina and volume. Since the characters and setting tend to remain the same in each story, it helps the reader pick up on how the books might develop. Such familiarity encourages them on their reading journey. We hope you invite them to share with you the details of both their book club work and as always, what they are reading at school. We appreciate your interest and involvement with your child's reading development.