



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

Third Grade Curriculum Newsletter

Math

The third grade has been working on multiplication for the past few weeks. In the month of February we will continue to strengthen our multiplication skills, but we will also introduce division. Division is essentially the opposite of multiplication. Please work with your children every night to strengthen their knowledge of number facts. This can be done through online math games, skip counting, and even flash card games. A strong foundation in multiplication will make learning division easier.



Social Studies

Ciao! Over the past few months we learned a lot about the beautiful country of Italy and its rich culture. The third grade teachers enjoyed reading your landmark projects. There is so much to learn from Italian buildings such as the Ponte Vecchio, Trevi Fountain, the Roman Coliseum, and everyone's favorite, the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It's time to say "ciao" to Italy. Pack your bags and don't forget to bring your binoculars....we're off to Africa!

Science

Energy is all around us. As we begin our unit on energy and sound, it is important to take time to be aware of energy in our everyday lives. We will be learning about different forms of energy, how it can be stored and used. We will also investigate how energy moves in waves, and will take some time to focus on the physics of sound. Ask your children about the investigations they are conducting in class with their science teachers. You'll be amazed!

Reader and Writer's Workshop

Third grade readers are sure to enjoy the next Unit of Study in reading: Folktales, Fairytales, and Fables. While they are treasuring the stories that have delighted readers for centuries, they will continue the deep reading work that accompanies our rigorous course of study at P.S. 117. Folktales and fairytales have been used as a tool for teaching readers to compare and contrast texts as well as to sharpen interpretation skills. Studying the classic characters found in these stories (the villain, the princess, the sage and so on) helps children identify and evaluate similar characters that are found in many other books. This unit of study was added specifically this school year to enhance the work that is included in the new Common Core national standards.

You might want to support this work at home by encouraging dialogue and sharing conversations about what your child is reading at school. Ask them to share specific details about each genre. For example, both fairytales and folktales began as an oral tradition but fairytales are more likely to incorporate magic. Fables are short stories that use animals to impart a lesson or moral for the reader. All three require critical reading work and interpretation from the reader. Discuss the patterns that you find in these stories. Most important, ENJOY sharing stories together! We appreciate your efforts to support the work we do in school and we love working with your children.