

# THIRD GRADE NEWS



Dear Families,

The winter concert led by Mrs. Halter was amazing. The kids were terrific. The icing on the cake was our third grade musicians playing along with Mrs. Halter throughout the concert. We have been so lucky to have Mrs. Halter at Lincoln School. Today's concert was bittersweet knowing that she is retiring at the end of the school year.

For the last two weeks in math, we continued work in Unit 3, with a focus on subtracting, comparing measurements, and solving travel stories. We also practiced telling time on analog clocks. Please encourage your child to share their strategies. Counting up on a number line to find a difference has been a popular strategy. We will finish up Unit 3 when we return in January. However, please continue to work on those multiplication facts.

The children were also introduced to an "Hour of Code". The hour of code is a global movement by Computer Science Education Week. The children were introduced to computer science and computer programming. I was quite impressed with how fast they were able to program some of the lessons and move rapidly up the lessons.

In reading the children have been encouraged to lift their level of thinking about expository texts. Finding the main idea along with the supporting details of a text have been modeled and practiced. The children have also been having conversations about a text, trying to separate their perspective on a topic from the perspectives of the texts they are reading. The author of a text might have a different point of view that is different from the reader's point of view. The children have been introduced to thought prompts to help them cast about for ways to come up with the big ideas. Some examples of these are: "The idea I am getting about this is..." "In other words..." and "Another

way to say this is...". In addition to these lessons, the children worked sequencing with the popular picture book, Polar Express and a Hanukah book called Eight Crazy Nights.

We also welcomed Mr. Cheney's fourth grade class into our classroom this week. They shared what they learned about severe weather throughout their nonfiction unit. It was a great learning experience for both third graders and fourth graders.

In writing, the students are enjoying the informational writing unit, writing as experts. We have many books being written in the classroom. I have learned a lot from our students. They are quite the experts on cooking, dogs, soccer, dance, rocks, pandas and turtles...to name a few.

The creation of our Native American murals depicting the life and customs of particular tribes is officially underway. They now have embarked upon the task of weaving their research data into a panoramic scene telling the story of its residents. The use of Seesaw will allow the students to create QR codes which gives the viewer an opportunity to hear about the mural and its contents. This has been a great opportunity to develop research skills, use creative imagery, and learn the give-and-take necessary in working together on a project. This project will also take us into the new year.

and... a HUGE thank you...to everyone that stopped in, planned, ran a center, and brought supplies to our winter party. Everyone enjoyed themselves!

Have a wonderful winter break. Best wishes for a happy 2020!

Cynthia Mares

