

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that September has come to an end and October has begun. I am always ready to sit around the fire pit and enjoy the crisp fall weather.

Many of our students completed their fall MAPS testing these past two weeks. We look forward to using this data to help enhance our instruction.

Last week, we welcomed the author, Karina Yan Glaser, to Lincoln School. She is the author of The Vanderbeeker series. Ms. Glaser explained the process of becoming a published author and the amount of time and commitment it takes to revise, revise, and revise some more!

Math has kept us very busy as we learn different tools to help us understand the concepts of multiplying and dividing. The kids are becoming experts at arrays. Check youcubed.com for some great interactive, entertaining, and educational practice options to do at home. We have also begun our problem of the month activities. The children are learning to persevere and use different strategies for these problem solving challenges. Some of the students chose to post their thinking on Seesaw this week!

In writing, we are currently revising endings to our narratives. It is important for the children to reread their drafts asking themselves, "What is the important message I've conveyed?" Publishing will be taking place throughout next week. Look for some finished pieces on Seesaw soon.

In reading, we have been working on ways to lift the levels of the children's reading by tackling complex texts with grit, climbing the hurdle of hard words by chunking the words, thinking about the gist of the story, and asking questions about a word by connecting it to synonyms and antonyms. In addition to this, we have also focused our attention to figurative language. We used Amelia Bedelia's semantic failures by showing children how language can have multiple meanings. These situations create humor and teach children about idioms and other figurative expressions.

In social studies, we are finishing up communities, geographical landforms, and maps. Our first science unit will begin next week- Plant Growth and Development. The children will investigate a dry lima bean and an immersed one that has been placed in water for 24 hours. We will dissect the bean to observe the internal structure. Later in the week we will plant our own seeds and begin our observations on Wisconsin Fast Plants. These plants complete a life cycle in under 30 days allowing the children an opportunity to observe and collect data.

We are continuing to work on our character development at Lincoln School. Having a positive attitude with our thoughts and speech will help us perform well in the classroom as well as maintain healthy friendships. I am stressing the importance that being responsible means that we do the right thing even when no one is looking. "If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere!" ~ Frank A. Clark and "Do the right thing, even when no one is looking!" have been the two quotes the children have discussed over the past two weeks. These quotes lead us during our class meetings and help us to stop and reflect. Mrs. Peyton, the school social worker, also came in and read a wonderful book, *Cliques Just Don't Make Cents* by Julia Cook. The book teaches us that we should try to avoid having cliques and include everyone that might be feeling left out. Students really enjoyed the book!

Upcoming events:

- No School on Wednesday, October 9th.
- Aaron Reynolds, Author Visit, Thursday, October 10th.
- Our field trip to the [Botanic Garden](#) is Tuesday, October 15th. **Please make a note to pack your child's lunch/drink in a disposable container.** Also, comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing and shoes are in order for the day. There are a few field trip permission slips that have not been returned. Please send them in when you have a chance.

Happy Friday!

Cynthia Mares