

# THIRD GRADE

Dear Families,

There was certainly no shortage of hearts and games today. Pinks and reds were definitely the colors of the day. My heartfelt thanks go to our party organizers who organized a wonderful Valentine's Day party for the class. Third graders created art for the upcoming Lincoln auction in March. I look forward to seeing the final product!

Our biography presentations were outstanding. I enjoyed how each student brought the person they studied to life in our classroom. We had some creative costumes and informative history lessons. I am extremely proud of all of the hard work that each child put into this project. Thank you for assisting your child and making this such a successful presentation week! We also had the pleasure of seeing an actor portray Harriet Tubman in an assembly for the third and fourth grade this week. It tied in very well with our biography presentations.

In reading, the students will be introduced to a new structure-book clubs- which will support their work for the next few weeks. Within these book clubs, the students will continue to delve into their main character's qualities and actions, but this will be transferred across the whole story. They will be introduced to the shape that stories take-the story mountain. Big events will be highlighted along with how conflict is at the heart of all stories. I am modeling the thinking they are doing on their own with the beloved story, *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

Our second published informational book is almost complete. Students were able to pick a topic from another content area. Some are using this as an extension of their biography presentation by writing about their person, where others are diving into their Native American tribe again since they spent so much time researching this particular topic. As the month comes to a close, our writing will take a narrative turn where the students will write endings to stories that have been started. Developing characters and actions will be explored.

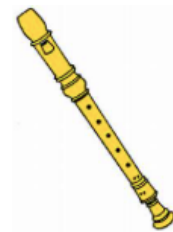
We wrapped up our unit on area and perimeter along with identifying various attributes of shapes focusing on triangles and quadrilaterals. The class participated in discussions on how shapes can share attributes. We are now extending our learning into our next unit - multiplication. Our unit at the beginning of the year focused on multiplying 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. Now we are focusing on multiplying by 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. We are

using cube trains, arrays, and the break apart strategy to figure out facts that the students may not know. Please continue practicing math facts at home.

In science, we have been working on Saving Fred, the worm, from his various mishaps using everyday materials to create bridges, parachutes, and submarines. This was a great segue into our classroom STEM unit - Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions. In this unit, the students will explore simple machines such as wheel and axles, levers, the inclined plane, and more. They will investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object. In the design problem, students will be faced with the challenge of how to rescue a trapped tiger at a zoo. Students will then apply their knowledge of forces and devise a way to rescue a heavy zoo animal while keeping it safe throughout the process. This is a very popular unit for the students! If you are interested in chaperoning our upcoming Field Trip to the DuPage Children's Museum to explore this topic further, please let me know. I am still in need of four chaperones. I promise it will be a great time!

Kudos to the students who participated in last month's science fair. I was so impressed with each project. The children were able to explain their projects to our class during the day prior to the evening presentations.

For music class, please be sure your child has his/her recorder here at school each music class day (Monday and Wednesday). As important as practicing the recorder, ever more so is participating in class. By practicing regularly, and remembering to bring recorders and books, we are developing themes of responsibility and respect.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

2/17 No School, President's Day



2/18 No School, Professional development for teachers

2/27 and 2/28 Parent Teacher conferences: please sign up if you haven't. If you need an alternative time, please let me know.



3/2 No School, Casimir Pulaski Day

3/3 Field Trip to the DuPage Children's Museum

The PTO Lincoln School Auction will be on Friday, March 13!

Have a great long weekend,

Cynthia Mares