

# THIRD GRADE NEWS

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for meeting with me last week during parent/teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress. It is hard to believe that it is already March and we have started the last trimester of the year. We also had a blast at the Naperville Children's Museum this week! Students participated in some hands-on learning of the different simple machines and had the opportunity to explore everything the museum had to offer. A big thank you goes out to our chaperones for spending the day with us at the museum!

In reading, students have been participating in book clubs. This gives students an opportunity to talk not just in partnerships, but in small groups. Each book club chose a name for their club, created a book club contract, and they set a reading assignment during each book club meeting. Students are learning the importance of staying in sync with each other in order to have meaningful conversations. Each book club is embarking on a journey with a strong main character. Students are learning that characters in books face a series of hurdles, react to these hurdles in some way, and eventually tackle these hurdles.

In writing, we wrapped up our informational unit. Students displayed that they are experts on many different topics! We are now focusing on short story writing. Students have been given the beginning of a story, and then they must develop the middle and ending. This has led to some great discussions about the elements of story (narrative) writing and the importance of punctuation! Also, the class has really enjoyed the opportunity to be able to write more creatively. The next two weeks we will spend our writing time exploring different fairy tales. This is in preparation for our upcoming fairy tale writing unit that will begin when we return from spring break.



We wrapped up our unit on area and perimeter in math, and are now extending our learning of 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. Practicing math facts in the car or at home can be fun.

The students continue to learn about forces and interactions, and how they are used to do work, by building compound machines. They also learned about the pull and push of magnetism. Please point out simple machines that you see around you: inclined planes, wedges, screws, levers, pulleys, and wheels and axles. Now, the class is working on saving the plastic tiger that fell in the moat. Please ask your students about how they plan to save the tiger. See you at conferences!

It's time to think about summer school! District 90's Summer School program will be in session from Monday, June 18th through Friday, July 17th, with no classes on July 3rd. Students entering Kindergarten-4th grade will be at Willard Elementary and students entering 5th-8th grade will be at Roosevelt Middle School. Registration opens on Friday, March 1st at 12:00 p.m. and closes on April 18th. [Click here for the brochure and registration.](#)

*Just to let you know...*

Pi Day, one of my favorite holidays is coming up on March 14 (3.14)!



*To celebrate the countdown to Spring Break, Lincoln will celebrate Spirit Week during the week of March 16-20. Here is a rundown of the fun week we have planned:*

**Monday, March 16- Mixed up Monday-**

*-Mix up your clothes, wear tacky colors, crazy socks, wear your clothes backwards or crazy hair!*

**Tuesday, March 17- Go Green Tuesday- St. Patrick's Day**

*-Wear as much green as possible*

**Wednesday, March 18-Cozy-up and Read Day-**

*-Wear your favorite pajamas, bring your favorite book and get ready to Drop Everything And Read several times throughout the day!*

**Thursday, March 19- Wear RED for Lincoln and Hat Day-**

*Wear your Lincoln spiritwear, red and your favorite or craziest hat!*

**Friday, March 20- Vacation Friday-**

*-Celebrate the start of Spring Break by wearing your favorite vacation shirt and sunglasses!*

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Mares