

# Third Grade Newsletter

P.S.24 Queens

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☺ **Important Dates in April** ☺

**Field Trip to Jamaica Performing Arts: April 7th**

**Spring Recess: April 10-18**

**NYSELAT speaking begins: April 19th**

<b>Reading: Intermediate Nonfiction Readers</b>	After finishing the ELA state test, we will be moving on to Non-Fiction reading. The students were introduced to nonfiction reading in the beginning of the year. We will continue studying the text features of a Non-Fiction text, the main idea of a Non-Fiction article with supporting details, as well as, the complex Tier II vocabulary the children must navigate while reading a complex Non-Fiction text. At home, please have them use the Thinking Maps we will be using in class such as, a Tree Map, in order to organize the main idea with branches for supporting evidence <i>directly</i> from the text.
<b>Writing Intermediate Nonfiction Writers</b>	After the ELA state test, the students will be jumping back into informational writing. They are already pros with this because they wrote informational books in the beginning of the year to teach their reader about a topic they know a lot about. They will explore this topic through breaking down what they know about their <i>bigger</i> topic into smaller sub-chapters. By the end of the unit, they will teach their reader all about something they are an expert in, and get to prove it with supporting evidence. At home, allow your children to brainstorm topics they are interested in and tell you all about them!
<b>Math: Test Prep</b>	Math State Test is during the first week of May: 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> . Soon, we will be reviewing math concepts for test prep. While completing test prep work, make sure that your child is modeling their mathematical thinking in more than one way. They must be showing multiple ways to display the same answer to ensure they understand a concept. As they read a word problem, have them circle what the question is asking them and explain it to you in their own words.
<b>Science</b>	We will finish up animal adaptation in the month of April. Ask your child about what they have learned. The first two weeks of May we will study plant adaptation, asking why certain plants survive in certain environments (habitat) and some don't?
<b>Social Studies</b>	We will study another country, Egypt and its culture, history, and geography. At home, please allow your child to research on the internet about their class's far off country they will be focusing on. When researching, allow them to take an in depth look at the different aspects of culture: Traditions, Clothing, Holidays, Folklore, Economy, Government, Food and History.

## Focus of the Month: Test Prep

The focus of this month's learning will be on preparing for the NYS Common Core Tests. Each class has been equipped with test preparatory materials in order to ensure rigorous work towards your child passing both the ELA & Math State Exams. Your child will be bringing home torn out portions of these texts to be completed at home. Both in class and at home, we must work as a team by emphasizing to the children that they must put in their best effort this month. Children must come in to class rested (this means going to bed early) so that their minds are recharged for the next day! At home, please build your child's stamina by setting a timer as they read. This strategy serves two purposes, non-stop focusing, as well as, getting used to being timed while completing a task. Students are going to be given a plethora of strategies to get them ready and able to attack a test with ease. Some of these strategies are: reading the questions more than once, eliminating multiple-choice answers and understanding *why* they are wrong, and circling in the text what information gave them the answer.