

THIRD GRADE NEWSLETTER

P.S. 24 QUEENS

November 2016

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Important Dates:

**NO SCHOOL: November 8th and 11th*

**NO SCHOOL: November 24th and 25th*

**First Friday (Thursday) Close reading of Science complex text: November 10th*

**Create shows: November 18th*

Reading Workshop: Continuing Mystery Reading In November, we are continuing our journey in Mystery reading. The students have been using the skills they've learned as narrative readers and are applying it to the genre of mystery. They are working on character development, problem and solution, importance of setting, and are learning various mystery vocabulary. The Mystery Unit has been very exciting and suspenseful! The students have even discovered their own mysteries throughout their classrooms. At home, continue to encourage your students to converse about what they have read. Also have them use Thinking Maps to organize their ideas with a Circle Map and Tree Map. The next unit will focus on reading informational texts. Begin to have your students pick out nonfiction books to read.

Writing Workshop: Mastering Informational Writing: In the month of November, our students will be continuing in Informational (Non-Fiction) writing. This will overlap into the next unit in reading (Nonfiction). The students have picked topics that they know a lot about. To help their readers understand their topic clearly, they broke down what they know about their *bigger* topic into smaller sub-chapters. By the end of the unit, they will teach their writer all about the topic they are an expert in. They will prove it with supporting evidence that they found while researching. At home, allow your children to study about more topics that they enjoy.

Math: Multiply ways to Multiply: Third grades will be ending unit 2, which we focused on understanding line plots, bar graphs, and pictographs. November will be for learning multiplication by using different, multiple strategies. For example, they will solve multi-step word problems using equal groups, making arrays, skip counting and repeated addition. Soon after we will be starting division, which is related to multiplication. Please make sure at home your child is practicing their multiplication facts.

Social Studies: Chinese Folktales: Third graders are beginning to read Chinese folktales. These folktales always have a great message, which helps the students recognize themes. The students can also use what they know from narrative stories to better comprehend the story. Each of the folktales they explore will have common themes and narrative features. They also connect to the American Folktales we know and love. At home, please let your child take out various folktales or fairytales from the library so they can develop connections.

Science: Energy: We have finally completed our informational unit on matter. The students learned all about the three states of matter and how matter is all around us. Now beginning in November, the students will begin learning about energy in class. They will learn about the different kinds of energy and how they can change from one to another. They will also explore what in our daily lives needs energy to function. At home, ask your child about the different forms of energy and how they can change.