



## Third Grade Newsletter Issue 3– November 2017

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<b>READING</b> Nonfiction Reading	In reading we moving on to nonfiction reading. The transition between these genres is a difficult one, due to the difference in how differently the texts are navigated, as well as, the purpose of their reading. We will be studying the text features of a Nonfiction text, the main idea of a Nonfiction article with supporting details, as well as the complex Tier II vocabulary the children must navigate while reading a complex Nonfiction 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 directly from the text.
<b>WRITING</b> Informational Writers	In the month of November, our writing unit will be shifting to informational (nonfiction) writing which pairs nicely with our reading unit. The students must switch their writing gears, to now 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 writer 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</b> Exploring Multiplication	We are beginning this unit by conducting an exploration using real world word problems with Math in the City program. We will learn to relate multiplication to addition by using several strategies, such as skip counting, doubling, drawing arrays, and modeling groups of. The students will be learning vocabulary and properties associated with multiplication. Throughout this unit, we will be solving multi - step word problems. At home, ask your child about, "How they solved the problems?" and "Is there another way to solve this problem?"
<b>Social Studies</b> Maps and Geography	Third graders will continue on in their learning about maps and how the people inside of a country are influenced by their geographical location. Students will participate in interactive centers where they explore map features, where a country is located, and symbols of that country's map in order to identify key characteristics of that country. From those key characteristics, they will then wonder how life is different from continent to continent, for people living in rural areas of a country opposed to a city, as well as, how the land affects what people eat/wear etc. At home, please have the children research the seven continents on the internet. A helpful website to use is NatGeo.com.
<b>Science</b> Matter	In November, the third grade students will be deepening their knowledge of matter. We will focus on understanding the three states of matter which are solids, liquids and gases. Students will learn the characteristics of each state and how they can change from one state to another. This unit is heavily rich with vocabulary and "juicy sentence" work that allows children to dive deeply into complex texts on the topic. At home, please have your child research matter and how solids, liquids and gases can change from one state to another on the internet or at the library!

### Focus of the Month

#### Close Reading of Science Text

Scientific texts contain a lot of information. They are full of facts, evidence, and data. In order to make that information accessible to readers, authors of scientific text structure their text in certain ways that why it's important to closely read the text several times. **Family Friday on November 10, 2017 will focus on Close Reading of Science.**