Reading Corner

We are beginning a new unit in Reader’s Workshop turning our attention back to fiction. We will practice getting to know the characters in our books better. We will notice what they say and do, and we will use these observations to begin to develop theories about characters. Students will learn that characters often face a series of hurdles that grow bigger until the climax, when the character is prompted to resolve the problem. We will look for patterns in a character’s thoughts and reactions to problems, all while noticing the choices they make during the story’s climax. Readers will also learn lessons alongside their characters.

Questions to ask at home:
* How do you learn about the characters in books?
* What have you learned about the characters in your book so far?
* What theories have you developed about these characters?
* What questions might you like to ask a character in your book?

Writer’s Workshop

We are continuing to study opinion writing. Students recently finished writing and recording speeches. Students will review the basic structure of opinion writing and how to adequately support their opinions, as they draft petitions. Students have been writing about issues that matter to them, as well as noteworthy people who they believe deserve special attention.

To support your child at home:
* Encourage your child to support their requests with reasons and evidence. *(I think we should go to the park (claim) because then we can all get some movement (reason)). For example, the kids can play tag while the parents run (evidence).*

Upcoming Dates

Friday, January 10th-
Third Grade Breakfast 9-10am

Friday, January 17th-
Parent Teacher Conferences
(No School for Students)

Monday, January 20th-
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(No School for Students)

Monday, January 27th-
PD Day/Records Day
(No School for Students)

Tuesday, January 28th-
PD Day
(No School for Students)

Announcements/Reminders:
* Don’t forget to practice weekly spelling lists with your child for spelling quizzes on Mondays.
* Encourage your child to use the online math programs Xtra Math and Zearn to practice and reinforce math fluency and problem-solving skills.
* Encourage your child to work on the corresponding Eureka math lesson worksheets in his/her homework packet.
**Eureka Math**

We are finishing our study of multiplication and division. During this module, we primarily focused on multiplication and division using units of 6, 7, and 8. We used the distributive property as a strategy to multiply and divide, as well as interpret the unknown to model and solve these problems. We will soon begin studying area in Module 4. Students will look at square centimeters and square inches and use them to make and measure the area of quadrilaterals.

You can find “Parent Tips” under the Homework Tab on our third grade website.

**To support your child at home:**
* Encourage your child to complete Xtra Math (or practice multiplication flashcards).
* Continue to practice skip counting by multiples of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

**Must Know Spelling Words:**
1/6: fourth, torn, horse, behavior, worry, report
1/13: answer, together, either, order, remember, several

**Weekly Grammar Skill:**

1/6: A tense of a verb tells when an action occurs
**present** - the action is happening now  
   *I am eating now.*
**past** – the action already happened  
   *I ate cereal.*
**future** – the action is going to happen  
   *Tomorrow I will eat eggs.*

1/13: Use the rules below for present tense verbs when the subject is singular…
For most verbs, add –s  
   *sits, looks*
For verbs that end in s, sh, ch, x, or z – add es  
   *pitches, washes*
For verbs ending in a consonant followed by a y—change the y to i and add es  
   *carries, hurries*

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**Science and Social Studies**

We began our study of government by learning about the distinction between local, state, and national government. Students will learn about the three branches of government. We are currently studying the legislative branch. Students will learn about the two parts of the legislative branch, and learn how new laws get created in Congress.

**To support your child at home:**
* Discuss the branches of government and each branch’s function.
* Ask your child which branch of government he/she feels is most important and discuss why.
* Discuss current political events and how they show the checks and balances system at work.

*Follow us on Instagram for photos: brenthirdgraders*