Reading Corner

We are continuing in our Character unit. 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. We will use and examine story mountains, where we will continue to understand how characters fit into the shape of a story.

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 in the second week of a Literary Essay writing unit. Students are reading short texts and then writing paragraph long responses to their reading. Each essay starts with naming the author and text and stating a BIG, BOLD claim. Students are learning to support their claims with both direct quotes and paraphrased ideas from the text. They are adding transitional phrases such as, “In the beginning...” or “At the end...” Writers are also adding sentences to explain why their evidence supports their claim.

To support your child at home:
* Ask your child questions about what they are reading and have them support their answers with examples from the text. (Ex: I think that the character is (character trait). For example...)

Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 7th – Report Cards Sent Home

Friday, February 7th – Brent CommUNITY DANCE: 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, February 14th – School Spirit and Club Day #3

Monday, February 17th – February 21st – February Break
NO SCHOOL for Students or Staff

Announcements/Reminders:

Just-Right Books

Have you been looking for a book on your child’s “just-right” reading level?

1. Go to www.scholastic.com (make sure you are on the teacher’s view - click on “teacher’s home” in teacher drop down tab)
2. Click on Book Wizard (on the top)
3. Click on Search by Reading Level
4. Click on Guided Reading, and put in your child's level
5. Thousands of books will appear on your screen. You can narrow your search by clicking on different buttons on the left side of the screen.

*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 studying area in our newest math unit. We have done this by looking at square centimeters and square inches and using them to make and measure the area of quadrilaterals. We have discussed the idea that areas can differ depending on the unit, even if there are the same number of squares (10 cm$^2$ is a smaller area than 10 inches$^2$). As always, 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.
* Talk about real world examples of area when you see them. (ex: “Our kitchen has tiles that are one square foot each. I wonder what the area might be?”)

Must Know Spelling Words:
Each week, students will be introduced to 6 must know spelling words:

2/3: allowed, aloud, whose, who’s, its, it’s

2/10: sense, cents, rung, wrung, principal, principle

Grammar Practice:
2/3 Irregular Verbs
Some verbs change in irregular ways from past to present
Ex: I am the youngest in my family. vs I was the youngest in my family.

2/10 Pronouns
Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns in a sentence.
Ex: With a noun: The girl played the piano
    With a pronoun: She played the piano.

Science and Social Studies

We are continuing our study of government by learning about the three branches of government. So far we have learned about the legislative branch and will be moving onto the executive branch next.

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