Reading Corner

We are continuing with our non-fiction unit. During this unit, readers used their knowledge of text structure to help sort and chunk information. A huge focus and push throughout this unit was learning how to summarize texts’ main idea(s) and supporting details. In the last part of our non-fiction unit students are reading and summarizing biographies. Our readers are learning to focus on what the character is like; what he or she wants; what gets in the way of the character meeting those wants; what the character does to overcome obstacles – all things that your children have learned to notice within the context of fiction books.

Questions to ask at home about Non-Fiction books:
* How can you tell the difference between Non-Fiction and Fiction texts?
* What is the main idea of this section? Chapter?
* What is the author’s purpose for writing this book?
* What biographies are you reading? What challenges does your character face? How does he or she overcome those challenges?

Writer’s Workshop

We will continue to draft persuasive speeches, petitions, and editorials, where writers will write bold claims supported by reasons and evidence. Students will continue to learn the basic structure of opinion writing and how to adequately support their opinions. Students have been writing about issues that matter to them, as well as noteworthy people who they believe deserve special attention. Students selected their first opinion topic to develop, write long and strong about, and eventually publish. They are spending time gathering evidence that will support and prove their theses/claims.

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, 12/6-8th: Brent PTA Christmas Tree Sale at Brent Playground.

Friday, 12/20:
Spirit Day and Club Day
Uniform Free Day
Third Grade Classroom Spelling Bee

Monday, 12/23-1/1: Holiday Break
Happy Holiday’s and Happy New Year!

School opens January 2nd!

Friday, January 10th-Third Grade Learning Showcase 9-10am

Announcements/Reminders:
* The Third Grade Classroom Spelling bee will be held on December 20th in your child’s home classroom.

* 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.
Science and Social Studies

This past week we ended our study of DC Neighborhoods with a celebration in the classroom with all that we’ve learned. Next we will embark on 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.

Eureka Math

We have started our third module which is the continuation of our study with multiplication and division. Over the next several weeks, we’ll primarily focus on multiplication and division using units of 6, 7, and 8. We will use the distributive property as a strategy to multiply and divide, as well as interpret the unknown to model and solve these problems. 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.
* Practice telling time to the nearest minute, and ask how much time elapses between family activities. (Ex: If you start your homework at 3:45pm and dinner is at 5:15pm, how much time passed from the beginning of homework until dinner?)

Must Know Spelling Words:

12/9: chance, sentence, advance, accident, voice, source
12/223: NO WORDS-HOLIDAY

Weekly Grammar Skill:

12/9: A verb tells what is happening to the noun.
-Action verbs show an action.
  My dog ran away.
-Linking verbs connect the subject to a noun that describes it.
  His sister is the trumpet player.
-Helping verbs come before the main verb to tell about the action.
  I will call you later.

*Follow us on Instagram for photos: brenthirdgraders