

NEWS FROM 3SZ

Curriculum News

Reading

The third graders are continuing to work on building stamina as readers. They have been working to keep track of their reading progress and setting achievable reading goals.

In the last few sessions, students were placed in reading partnerships, having the opportunity to interview their partner about their reading life, including their preferences, areas of success, and opportunities where they want to grow as readers. Additionally, we worked to set up “systems” for organizing our classroom library and locating invigorating texts, while keeping in mind those “Just Right” books.

One of the major lessons of the week was about checking for comprehension. Often, readers may be able to read with accuracy, but may struggle to recall important information from the text or infer deeper meaning. The third graders are working to strike this balance as they check their understanding.

Writing

Students continue to develop personal narrative stories. We are currently

finding the heart of our stories and working to expand on the heart by using dialogue and words that appeal to our senses. The students are also learning how to properly paragraph their stories, so that the reader is made aware of when the action changes. Paragraphing will also help our young writers know if they need to add more to a section of their story.

Math

Students have been looking for the relationships between multiples of 2, 5 and 10, 3 and 6, and 4 and 8. They have been discussing these patterns and solving related problems. The kiddos have also been sharing representations of these groupings and focusing on using known facts, or relational thinking, to solve more difficult problems.

Students are also learning to use an area model, or array to represent multiplication problems and represent their mathematical thinking.

Science

We’ve been closely observing our Wisconsin Fast Plants! Students have been making scientific drawings of their

plants and using hand lenses to make precise observations.

Students are studying the parts of a plant and the plant life cycle. They have been applying their knowledge to the Wisconsin Fast Plants growing before our very eyes! The students are learning about pollination and the important role bees play in keeping plant life healthy and abundant.

Second Step

In Second Step the third graders are continuing to practice and discuss “skills for learning”, which include: focusing attention, and listening. Over the past couple of weeks, the students have been introduced to two additional “skills for leaning” which include self-talk and being assertive.



Announcements and Dates

*Next week is MAPS testing at Willard. Third grade will test on Thursday, September 27th and Friday, September 28th. You can assist by helping your child get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

*Next Friday, September 28th is an early dismissal.

*Our field trip to the Botanic Garden is Tuesday, October 2nd! Please send your child with a brownbag, peanut-free lunch.

*Picture day is October 3rd.

*There is no school on October 8th.

*The boys and girls are doing a terrific job remembering when things are due and keeping track in their assignment notebooks. Please be sure to check assignment notebooks nightly as your child adjusts to the new routine. Thanks for your support!

QUICK TIP

In third grade we've been talking about how good readers stop to check their comprehension when reading. They ask themselves these questions:

- Who is in this part?
- What just happened?
- Does this fit with something that already happened, or is this new?

"LEARNING NEVER EXHAUSTS THE MIND."
LEONARDO DA VINCI

Best Buddies is coming to Willard! The goal of the Best Buddies club is to teach acceptance and value inclusion at any age before stereotypes form that create social barriers throughout the school aged years. Best Buddies is looking for more students who are interested in making connections and friendships and has some leadership potential to share. Ms. Conrad and Ms. Costin will lead monthly Monday meetings during lunch and recess. Students will eat lunch together, engage in fun and social activities, and plan activities to promote meaningful social connections throughout our school community. If interested, sign up through the organization online portal. Simply go to bestbuddiesonline.org, choose "Membership Application" and choose "Elementary School." The application is very brief and there is no fee. Contact Aimee Conrad

