

NEWS FROM 3SZ

Curriculum News

Reading

Over the past couple weeks, we have been actively setting up our Reader's Workshop. Through the incorporation of whole group, small group, and individual activities, each student will be working on tasks that help them reach their reading potential.

As part of our whole group time the third graders have been working on reading like their book is "gold", meaning with expression, enthusiasm, and interest. We also discussed how the children have the power to create their own best reading life by finding a good spot to read, choosing books that are a good fit, and finding lots of time to read. Finding a good fit book includes asking the questions:

1. Can I read the words smoothly and easily?
2. Is it just right?
3. Or are there so many hard words that I can't read smoothly?
4. Or is the book too easy, so simple that it won't hold my attention?

This week we also began reading and thinking about Stone Fox. The children are already doing great thinking about the characters and plot.

Writing

During our writing block, we began establishing rules and expectations for our Writer's Workshop. We kicked off the start of our workshop by thinking about writing goals, decorating notebooks with inspiring pictures, and brainstorming topics to write about.

Math

We are full speed ahead into our first math unit. As you have seen from the homework, these first few lessons have focused on multiplication and looking at things that come in groups, drawing pictures to represent groups of things, and solving multiplication problems. We will continue our study of multiplication in the weeks ahead and include skip counting, understanding arrays, patterns and relationships, word problems,

Science

We have officially started our study of plants. We made scientific observations of the inside of a seed and compared a dry seed to a soaked seed. We also planted Wisconsin Fast Plants in our classroom. They are amazing to watch, as they develop through their entire life

cycle in a few short weeks. The third graders are using their senses to help them make scientific observations and drawings.

Second Step

Each week, the third graders participate in a social-emotional Skills program entitled "Second Step". During this time, the students gather together to learn key social and emotional skills such as empathy, emotion management, self-regulation, and problem solving. After a brief mini-lesson, the students have the opportunity to practice the skill of the week in a controlled and safe setting. The first lesson was all about "being a learner". The third graders talked about what they do to show that they are listening and concentrating.



Announcements and Dates

* **Open House** is next Thursday, September 13th.

* There is **no school** Wednesday, September 19th.

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

* We are going on a field trip to the **Botanic Garden** on October 2nd. If you are interested in chaperoning, please let me know!

* Please be sure to check your child's Homework Folder and Assignment Notebook each

evening and empty any notes/ graded work on a regular basis.

* Please be mindful that the first school bell rings at 8:15 and the second bell at 8:20. Thank you for getting your children to school on time. We have math first thing in the morning and get started right away!

QUICK TIP

3SZ Specials Schedule

Monday - PE

Tuesday - PE, Music STEM

Wednesday - PE, Music

Thursday - PE, Library

Friday - PE, Art

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD." -NELSON MANDELA

