

October 1, 2016

Dear Families,

We have had a very positive first month of third grade! I'm enjoying getting to know your children and am excited to work with each one of them this year. I will be writing you newsletters at least once a month to keep you up to date on what we've been working on in class. Thank you for reading!

### Math

We have worked through most of our first math unit already! This unit has included a review of various math tools like number grids, rulers, calculators, and our Student Reference Book. We've also worked on telling time and solving elapsed time problems, rounding/estimation skills, and some beginning multiplication (x2, x5 and x10). On Friday we had fun calculating the length of our daylight hours. This is something we will be calculating throughout the year and we will be graphing our results.

### Reading Workshop

In Reading Workshop we've discussed reading expectations for third grade, such as reading "good fit books," reading one book at a time from cover to cover, keeping our eyes (and minds) on the page, and taking time to write about and talk about the books we read. Basically the goal so far has been to build a community of readers who are excited about reading! The kids are doing so well building good reading habits and routines. Thank you for your support with reading logs and book bags. The logs are important tools for us. We have already begun to study them in order to learn about ourselves as readers and to set goals. Some goals that kids in our class have set include: finishing books I start, reading one book at a time, reading a "good fit" level, reading about 1 page a minute, reading every day at school and home.

### Upcoming Dates:

**Wed. 10/5 Cromwell Center Visits**

**Fri. 10/7 No School—Prof. Development**

**Mon. 10/10 No School—Columbus Day**

**Wed. 10/19 Field Trip to Old York (info to come!)**



Next week our attention will turn to the comprehension work that readers need to do to be sure we understand what we read. Readers will learn to give themselves a "comprehension check" by asking: Who is in this part? Where are they? What are they doing? We will also be focusing on the comprehension skills of envisioning and predicting. We are using a new read aloud, Stone Fox, to aid us with this work.

### Writing Workshop

We have been writing a lot each day in our first unit on personal narratives, or true stories about ourselves. Kids have been enjoying writing in their personalized writer's notebooks. Last week students chose one "seed" story to bring through the writing process. We will be learning strategies for writing good leads (beginnings), revising our work, and publishing our writing. Sometimes kids struggle with generating ideas to write about when writing personal narratives. Next week I will send home writer's notebooks and a letter about the strategies we've learned for generating ideas. I hope you'll help your child collect a few ideas for future writing. Having a list of ideas ready to go can really help kids overcome "writer's block!"

### Mapping our World

As you may know, at CRES we will dedicate most Fridays to our science or social studies topics. Our first social studies unit is on mapping. In particular, we will learn about our state map. Yesterday, we kicked off this unit with some fun mapping centers. Kids learned about map grids, map scale, drawing a map using a "bird's eye view," and our place on the map (continents vs. country vs. state vs. town). Soon I will be sending home an at-home mapping project. Look for details coming home next week.

### Change in Dismissal Plans

Just a quick note that if your child's dismissal plans will be different in any way, please send in a written note (not an email). Notes must include the name, address, and bus number of where your child will be going. If your child is doing an after school activity that will last for several weeks (like Chess Club or Nature Club), you can write one note at the beginning of the activity and list all the dates that apply. Thanks for your help with this—it really cuts down on phone calls made by our office staff.



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