

October 3, 2015

Dear Families,

It was really nice to have a chance to see so many of you at Open House last week. Each day I'm noticing that kids are getting more and more settled into new third grade routines and becoming more familiar with one another. I think we're off to a fantastic start. This week we spent time during our morning meetings revisiting our classroom rules and discussing what each of them really means. We had some really great discussions! On Thursday I sent home a list of our rules for you to refer to at home. As we get more settled into these rules and routines, we're ready to dig a little deeper into our curriculum. I look forward to working with your children! Read on to see what we've been doing and what will be coming up next.

### Reading

Our reading unit is called "Building a Reading Life." We are learning how to make reading the best it can be by choosing books we love, talking about books, and recommending books to our friends. We've begun logging our reading work and have learned to look at our log for patterns and set goals for ourselves as readers. Some goals kids set this week included:

- I'm going to read more at home.
- I'm going to log when I read.
- I'm going to try to read more pages each day.
- I'm going to finish the books I start.
- I'm going to choose books I love that are within reach for me.
- I'm going to read one book at a time.
- I'm going to try to read about 1 page a minute.

Next week we will be learning strategies for reading faster and stronger, checking for comprehension as we read, and visualizing what we've read by creating strong "mental movies."

At home, you can help by reminding students to log on to bring their books and logs back and forth each day in their green book bags. Thanks!

### Upcoming Dates:

October 9: No School, Prof. Development Day

Oct. 12: No School, Columbus Day

Oct. 14: 3rd Grade DARE begins (4 week program)

Oct. 15: Cromwell Center visits Ring class, Fire Posters Due and Scholastic Book Orders Due

Oct. 23: Picture Retakes

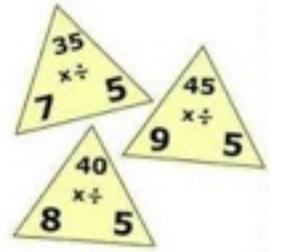


## Writing

Now that we've decorated our Writer's Notebooks we have begun to use them to collect lots of stories about our lives. Our first writing unit this year is about writing personal narratives, or true stories about ourselves. Thank you for working with your child to help them brainstorm ideas of stories they can write about. Next week we will focus on telling our stories with a storyteller's voice, adding dialogue and other true details, and editing our work as we go.

## Math

In math we've been working on reviewing telling time, and solving problems involving elapsed time. We also began thinking about multiplication and division this week by solving number stories involving equal groups. Next week I will send home multiplication fact triangles for kids to begin using at home to help them learn basic multiplication facts. We will start with easier sets of facts such as  $\times 1$ ,  $\times 2$ ,  $\times 5$  and  $\times 10$ . Right now we are using arrays and other visual representations to build understanding of multiplication and division.



## Other Happenings and Reminders...

- Officer Jamie Rooney will be visiting our classroom this month to do DARE with students. The goal of DARE is to teach children good decision making skills to help them live safe and healthy lives.
- The Cromwell Center will be doing a one-day program on disabilities awareness and sensitivity with each classroom at CRES. The goal of this program is to build understanding, reduce bullying, and help create more inclusive communities.
- There are a lot of fun before-school activities starting up at CRES. Be sure to check out Wake Up and Walk on Friday mornings and Wake Up and Read on Wednesday mornings. Both are great ways to start the day!
- I will send home Scholastic Book orders periodically throughout the year. When you order, you help build classroom bonus points which I can use to purchase more books for our classroom library. Thank you for considering purchasing books through Scholastic. I'll send home flyers on Monday!
- A reminder that if your child is going someplace different after school, please send in a note with the address, name and bus number of where you'd like your child to go. Thank you!



**POSTCARDS NEEDED!** As you know, we're involved in a fun postcard exchange with schools across the country. Thanks for sending in postcards. We are still in need of more postcards to mail out, so if you are able to donate 2 or 3, that would be great! Thank you!

Here are a few pictures of kids sharing and recommending books to one another on Friday. They were so engaged in their conversations I couldn't even get them to look at the camera! :)

