

September 18, 2015

Dear Families,

We are off to a **great** start in third grade. I'm enjoying getting to know your children and am excited to work with each one of them this year. I'm looking forward to seeing you next week for our Open House night. Please plan to come if you can—it is an important night with lots of information about third grade. **Open House is Thursday, September 24, beginning in the gym at 6:15.**

So far much of our time in class together has been spent getting to know one another and establishing our norms and routines for the year. We have begun to do a little work in each subject area, so read on to see what we've done and where we are going next.

Math

We have worked through a few of the beginning lessons in our first math unit. We've practiced using various math tools like number grids, rulers, calculators, and our Student Reference Book. We've done a brief review of telling time, place value, and rounding/estimation skills, but will continue to work in these areas as the unit progresses. Please refer to the Family Letter for more information.

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 noticing our reactions to the texts we read. We are working to build the habits of strong readers.

Writing Workshop

We have written a bit each day and will soon be starting our first writing unit on Personal Narratives, or true stories about ourselves. One important tool we'll use for writing this year is a personalized writer's notebook. We will plan to decorate writer's notebooks next Friday, September 25 at 1:30. Please see the attached page about materials and volunteers needed for this project.

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. Thanks for your help with this—it really cuts down on phone calls made by our office staff.