

September 27, 2014

Dear Families,

Now that we are getting settled into new 3rd grade routines, we have begun to dig a little deeper into our curriculum. Read on to see what we're working on....

### Reading

In Reading workshop we have continued to build our routines and expectations around book shopping and independent reading time. Last week we added a new routine: using reading logs. Students will log at school and home each day. At home, students should log books they are reading independently. Our homework expectation is that students read a good-fit book independently each night for 15 minutes or more. If you are reading an additional book aloud to your child, this is wonderful, but you do not need to put it on the log.

Many of our reading lessons so far have focused on strategies to help children read for meaning. Lessons have included:

- Good readers have reactions to text
- Good readers mark places in text that cause reactions
- We can talk and write more about our reactions
- Good readers visualize text, making mental movies as we read

Next week we'll continue to learn ways to enhance our mental movies, and fix up strategies we can use when meaning breaks down.

### Writing

As we continue with our personal narrative unit, we are building strategies to help us write better and longer stories. We have learned ways to generate ideas, how to use dialogue and description to spice up our writing, and some of us have been

#### Important Dates:

**Tues. 9/30: STAR Assessment in Computer Lab and Cromwell Center visits classroom**

**Mon. 10/13: Columbus Day, No School**

**Tues. 11/4 Teacher Inservice, No School**



working on using paragraphs to organize our writing. Next week we will learn about using a writing checklist to help us make our writing the best it can be. We will also begin using and creating spelling tools to use as we write.

### **Math**

We have nearly completed our first math unit, which has reviewed many important concepts. We will be taking our first math assessment next week. Don't forget that students should spend time each week practicing math facts. Next week we will make fact triangles to send home for fact practice. We will also be learning a strategy called "touch math" to help us with tricky facts. Subtraction facts seem to be more challenging for most than addition, so that may be a good focus for at-home fact practice.

### **Social Studies**

We have begun our first unit on mapping and geography. On Friday we reviewed concepts of town, state, country, continent, and we began making a "Me On the Map" book as well as a world map. Soon we will make a map of our state and will be learning to locate many important places in Maine. In October we will plan to visit the York Town Hall to learn about the maps that our town makes and also to take a peek into the records that are kept in the town vault. Be looking for more information on this coming home soon.

As always, please let me know if you have questions or comments. I am looking forward to a positive year of learning with your child!

Best,  
Hannah

