

October 22, 2016

Dear Families,

October seems to be flying by. We have been very busy in our classroom. We are beginning to hit our stride and move forward with our learning in big, important ways. Read on to see what we've been up to...

### Reading

In reading we have been learning comprehension skills that help us understand what we read. Some of the important ways readers make sense of what they read include envisioning (or making a mental movie) of the text, predicting what will happen next, and retelling big important events in a book. As we enter next week we will be learning about another important comprehension skill: asking and answering questions as we read. We will also review strategies for figuring out tricky words as we read, and learn to use textual clues to help us understand what these words mean. We've begun working with a reading partner. This is a person who students will spend time discussing their stories and their reading work with.

### Writing

In writing we continue to work on writing personal narratives, or true stories about ourselves. Students had guided practice bringing one story through the writing process and are now being their own writing "job captains." This means that they are guiding their own writing projects, deciding which writing pieces they'd like to bring through the writing process and "publish." Lessons have mostly focused on revision. Students are learning how to add details that bring their story to life, how to write using a "storyteller voice," how to add on to the heart of their stories, and how to write good beginnings and endings. Students will be learning to use an editing checklist to edit their work for punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Once students have a few published pieces, I am hoping to host a writing celebration—stay tuned for details!

### Math

In math we have been working hard on solving number stories. Students are learning the steps for solving a number story...

1. Read and understand—what do you know and what do you need to find out?
2. Plan—how will you solve? Add? Subtract? Multiply? Draw a picture?
3. Solve, showing all work
4. Check—does your answer make sense?

### Important Dates:

**Mon, 10/24: Mystery Maps Due**

**Tues., 10/25: DARE Begins**

**Fri., 10/28: Pumpkin Math  
9:30-10:30,  
Halloween Parade 2:15**

**Mon., 10/31: Maine Map Quiz**



We have also been developing our understanding of multiplication and division concepts. At this point in the year, students are drawing models to help them understand multiplication and division. This week we learned to draw arrays as a tool. We also had fun acting out the story, The Doorbell Rang in which kids are sharing cookies. We wrote division number sentences to go with the story to help build an understanding of division.

We have been working hard to review telling time to the nearest 5 minute mark, and have also been working on elapsed time. These are skills that are expected to be mastered this quarter in math. You can help at home by inserting time telling into your daily lives. If you have an analog clock, ask your child to tell the time throughout the day. Have your child tell the time and write it on daily math home links. Ask your child to solve elapsed time problems that have to do with your day.

### Social Studies—Mapping

In third grade your child will learn quite a bit about our beautiful state of Maine! Yesterday we learned a lot about the geography of our state by creating a map of Maine. Students learned where many important rivers, mountains and cities are in Maine. On Monday I'll be sending home a Maine map for your child to study at home. We will have a quiz on Monday, October 31. You can help your child study using the materials I send home. You might want to focus on learning rivers one day, mountains the next, cities the next, etc.

We had a fabulous field trip on Wednesday to the Museums of Old York. Students learned more about the symbols on our state flag and learned about the lives of farmers and sailors in Maine in the early 1800's. We made a flag at school and wrote a paragraph about the symbols. I plan to put photos of our trip onto our website later today. Check them out! :)

Thank you for encouraging your child with the creation of their "Mystery Map." These are due on Monday, October 24. I am looking forward to seeing your child's creation!

### Halloween

Everyone is excited about Halloween! Mr. Murphy sent out some information about our school Halloween celebration with the weekly flyers. See below...

*We will be celebrating Halloween next Friday at CRES (10/28). As part of the celebration, students will receive an apple and a Hoodsie cup to enjoy during class activities. Then, the school will hold its annual costume parade. If parents would like to see the ghouls and goblins, we invite you to the gymnasium at 2:15 p.m.*

*Students should not wear costumes to or from school.*

*Boys and girls are asked to save makeup for home celebrations.*

*No blood, gore, or fake weapons may be brought in. Let's keep this fun.*

*Complicated costumes may need to be pared down for the school event.*



In addition to the parade in the afternoon, we will be doing a special pumpkin math activity in the morning. I am looking for a few volunteers who would like to help out with pumpkin math on Friday, Oct. 28 from about 9:30 to 10:30. If you are interested, please email me.

Thank you for reading, and enjoy your weekend!

Best,  
Hannah Ring



### Celebrations...

**Thank you to the Elks for providing all third graders with a dictionary! Enjoy!**

**Thank you to Zach's Farm for donating pumpkins for our pumpkin math activity!**

**Congratulations to Scarlett Ring for being a winner in the Fire Safety poster contest!**

