

Third Grade News

General News



5/6/11

Dear Parents,

Can you believe how quickly the year has flown by?

Even though testing is completed, the learning has not! Please encourage your child to continue to read nightly and work on those multiplication facts!

We wanted to send out a special thank you to parents who braved the downtown traffic or rode bumpy-loud school buses to join us at the capitol. The children had a great time and a great review, just in time for the CRCT!

This week has also been teacher appreciation week, and we certainly do feel appreciated. The flowers, gifts, and the extended lunch

were real treats. All of us wish you a hearty THANK YOU!

The end of the year celebration is coming up, can you believe it?! We will need parent volunteers and donated food. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher.

We have exciting news! You will be able to sign up for **registration on line!** What this means for you is that you will be able to complete all of that information from home. You won't have any distractions, so that when you come in on Open House, you will have a moment to speak with your child's teacher. In addition you will be able to receive the school newsletter and your child's class newsletter via e-mail. Finally, you will also

receive the most current Harmony happenings throughout the summer, so please make sure that you sign up for the e-mail.

In addition to being able to register on line, we are asking parents to open a meal account. This is not just to pay for breakfast and lunch (although you can still do that!). The meal plan will allow you to pay for anything your child's school fees, such as field trips, year books, PTA support, and so forth on line. Please consider signing up.

We want to thank you at this time for all of your wonderful support and for the great year that we have had.

Sincerely,

Third Grade Teachers

Save the Date:

Friday 5/6 Progress Reports go home

Wednesday 5/11 Third Grade Field Day

Thursday 5/26

Third Grade end of the Year Celebration

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Reading



“No Matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self chosen ignorance.”

—Confucius



Summer is upon us and reading is the last thing your kiddo is thinking about. We get that; after testing we are all a little fried ourselves! However, reading non-stop is the only way for your child to not fall into that summer slump and loose ground. This should be a fun time to explore new books without the pressure of performing.

Remember, it isn't what your read so much as that you are reading a great deal.

Writing is one of those skills that needs to be practiced **daily** in order for the writer to improve. In school we make it our passion and we carve out time that we always keep just for writer's workshop.

Too often in the summer we just concentrate on the reading and maybe math if that is an area of weakness.

Comic books are fun and often have very sophisticated vocabulary. Series books are a fun summer reads as well.

Are you going on vacation? You and your child can look up and read about where you are going, even if it is to Nanna's house.

What new thing can you learn about the state that you didn't know before? What new things can you tell your grandparents about the state or

city they live in?

Another way to encourage reading is to look for board games like *Monopoly* that require reading to play, and then play with your child.

Your local libraries will have summer reading programs and we will include a summer reading list in the report card envelopes.

In short, have fun with reading and enjoy that novel by the pool!

Writing

We challenge you to write with your child **every** day. Keep a journal where you play with words. Keep an event diary of the major things you did over the summer, such as going to the concert, visiting relatives, going to the movies and so on. Write in each other's journal your thinking about each other's writing. Be careful,

we don't mean correcting. Only positive notes. Things like, "I like how you described that monster crushing wave at the beach." Finally write letters to everyone near and dear.

It is the playing with words that is important. We'll fix the conventions.



Math

We can't stress enough how important it is that you keep practicing those multiplication math facts with your child until they can say $9 \times 7 = 63$ as easy as their name. Next year there will be no teaching of multiplication, but

there will be **lots** of applications where multiplication will be used. Your child will be converting and thus multiplying centimeters to millimeters, fractions, and so on. Math becomes harder and more complicated if you are still

counting on your fingers. Remember, your child has to pass every subject on the CRCT in 4th grade. Give your child a head start by really keeping up on those multiplication facts.

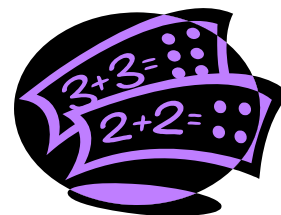
Some Fun Free Giggles:

Decimals have a point.

Geometry is plane fun.

Old math teachers never die, they just tend to infinity.

What did one math book say to another? Leave me alone. I have my own problems.



these topics.

Social Studies

Remember that next your child must pass every section of the CRCT. With that in mind here are the fourth grade topics that will be taught in social studies:

Native Americans: Their cultures, where they lived, and the physical aspects of

their environments.

Your child will learn about the European explorations and settlement of America.

Fourth graders will study Colonial America and the American Revolutions.

They will continue to study the growth of the new nation and its westward expansion.

As always there is so much that we cannot cover it all. Our goal is to give you a heads up so that if you have an opportunity to read or visit someplace that would enrich your child's background of these topics you can.

Science

Along the same thought as social studies, science topics in fourth grade will be:

Weather and the tools used to measure the changes that

occur in the weather. They will be studying the solar system in more depth than when they were in second grade. This will be followed by light and sound, forces in motion, simple machines,

and ecosystems.

The good news is that most children enjoy good nonfiction texts. Simon Semour and Gail Gibbons both write interesting books that just rivet my students and they discuss

The following are our e-mail addresses that we can be reached at :

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Last minute thoughts:

It is an expectation of fourth grade that students will have homework Monday through Thursday and that a great deal of that homework will be reading. Tests are not given on a Monday as a result.

There is a study hall for students who do not keep up on their work or if they do not complete their homework.

Just remember, third grade was a big step up from second grade; well

fourth grade will be another big change as will fifth and so on until graduation. The rigor builds exponentially.

So what can you do to help your child prepare for next year. Fourth grade tells us that if there is only two things you do through the summer, it should be **READ** and **practice those multiplication facts**. There is no time to reteach those facts, so please help your child and work those facts!

Remember to sign up for the e-mail from school and the meal plan, both of which you can do from the Harmony website.

The meal pay is under the cafeteria tab.

We have many websites that will reinforce any of the subjects your child might struggle with or just might want to review.

Thank you again for being wonderful and supportive parents. Have a wonderful summer.

