**Third Grade News ~ November 14, 2018**

Language Arts

We have started our next two units together. They focus on reading and writing information texts. Students will be seeing how mentor authors writing nonfiction during their reading time, which will help them write in the same way for their writing time. We have been working on the table of contents and organizational strategies for each chapter this week and will be heading back into the reading later in the week. I feel that the students are doing well with this because they are able to see the nonfiction writing and how it is written in published books during their reading time.

**Remember, students should be reading nonfiction for his/her nightly reading**. It will be easier to apply what we have learned in class, if the book is nonfiction. If you are having trouble finding nonfiction fact books, they don’t have to be on your child‘s reading level. As long as he/she is able to read and understand it, that’s what I care about. If you continue to have trouble, please send me an email and I can help your child.

Math

We are continuing our work in module three. The students now understand the function of parentheses and are using them when solving math problems! We will continue to use the associative and distributive property as strategies to help when multiplying or dividing larger unknown facts.

Parents: please check with your child to see if they have good working dry erase markers. We use them every single day during math class. Perhaps you can encourage your child to add them to their holiday wish list. ☺

Students are doing a great job at being prepared for math class! Just a reminder that if your child happens to leave his or her homework at school, it can be downloaded from my Madison Avenue teacher’s website under “links and files”.

Students should continue to complete Xtramath at least three different days per week. The new week begins Friday after school and completes the following Friday morning. Along with fact practice, your child can also do Study Island at home to help improve math skills.

Science

We are finishing up our unit on Earth Science by learning more about soil. As part of our soil study, we will be learning about how soil is formed, what 4 basic materials make up soil, and about the different types of soil. Students will also learn what type of soil is best to grow plants/crops and why. Ask your child to explain to you the difference between soil and dirt. Once we have completed this unit we will begin our Physical Science unit.

Social Studies

We have begun working on our Geography unit and finding locations in our community using the compass rose, cardinal directions, intermediate directions, and the alphanumeric grid. Also, the students will be learning how to tell the difference between a physical and political map. We will continue this for the remainder of the week and will have a short assessment early next week. We will then be moving on to Human Systems; how communities are effected by natural resources, agriculture, and industry, systems of communication and transportation in communities, and finally diverse cultures within a community.

Odds & Ends

\*\*Many students are coming to reading class without post-it notes. We use them every day. Please ask your child if he/she has the supplies needed for class. These could also be added to their holiday wish list! Thank you in advance.

\*\*Also, thank you for signing the assignment books. Please be sure to check your child’s behavior calendar in his/her folder and sign it on Fridays.

**Reminders~**

~ No school Nov. 21-23rd for Thanksgiving

~ In an effort to help keep our classrooms as clean as possible, please be sure that your child is wearing boots daily or has a change of shoes; the playground can be quite muddy at times. Your child is welcome to keep an extra pair of shoes here so that they do not have to worry should they forget a change of shoes at home.