

Third Grade **DECEMBER** Newsletter



Important Dates

- 12/9 - Picture Retakes
- 12/10 Winter Concert
- 12/16-12/17 Winter MAP Testing
- 12/20 Interim Report Cards Available
- 12/23- 1/1 No School, Winter Break

3rd Grade Blessing Bags:

During the winter holiday season, SFES would like to give back to those less fortunate than us. We would like to work together to collect items and create "Blessing Bags" to be distributed around the Holidays. A blessing is a beneficial thing for which one is grateful; something that brings well-being. A "Blessing Bag" is a bag containing a variety of different items that those without shelter can use to support themselves, especially in cold weather. Please consider donating items from the list below and feel free to add additional items. For questions, please contact Sabrina Moxley at sabrina_moxley@mcpsmd.org. Items can be dropped off in the main office. Items can be brought in at any time, but are needed NO LATER than the morning of Friday, December 20th BEFORE 9:00 a.m. 3rd grade students will be assembling the Blessing Bags on the 20th after 9:00. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Reminders

- Students should complete homework each night. Their assignments are written in their agendas each morning. Typically this consists of reading for 20 minutes and a math lesson.
- Students should have agendas signed each night
- Students should bring chromebooks to school each day in the carrying case. These should be charged nightly.
- Students should leave all toys at home.

Curriculum Highlights

Math: We will continue our exploration of multiplication and division in Module 3. So far, students have worked through Topics A-C.

Topic A: Students will study and apply the commutative and distributive properties. Students will begin to use a letter to represent the unknown when multiplying and dividing.

Topic B: Students will count by 6 and 7 to multiply and divide using number bonds to decompose. Students will also interpret the unknown to model and solve word problems using units of 6 and 7.

Topic C: Students will use the associative and distributive properties as a strategy to multiply and divide. Students will understand the function of parentheses and use it to solve problems.

Topic D: students will use arithmetic patterns to multiply and interpret unknown numbers in multiplication and division problems.

Topic E: Students will solve two step word problems involving all four operations and assess the reasonableness of solutions.

Topic F: Students will use place value strategies and the associative property to multiply multiples of 10.

End of Module Assessment: Students will take a comprehensive assessment to show what they learned.

SEL: We will continue to work with the Harmony curriculum lessons to build classroom community and kindness.

Science: In December, we will begin our unit of study on weather and climate. Students will explore how scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Students will also explore the water cycle, different types of precipitation, and extreme weather events.

Social Studies: We will begin Science in December.

Curriculum Highlights

Reading: In December, students will begin a new unit on *Light and Sound*. Students will read non-fiction texts about light sources, shadows, mirrors, reflection, refraction, lenses, and color. They will also study the characteristics of sound, as well as the human voice. Later chapters include information about light and photography as well as biographies of two famous inventors who worked with light and sound: Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison. It is important that you discuss the characteristics of the biography genre and stress that biographies are nonfiction since they are factual accounts of people's lives. Students will be given opportunities throughout the unit to demonstrate read-aloud fluency.

Spelling

During this unit's spelling exercises, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ee/ spelled 'y,' 'e,' 'i,' 'ea,' 'ee,' 'ie,' 'ey' and 'e_e.' For Lessons 6–10, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ae/ spelled 'ay,' 'ai,' and 'ea.' Finally, in Lessons 11–15, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ae/ spelled 'a_e' and 'a.' Students will have two Challenge Words and one Content word added to each spelling list.

You will also continue to teach dictionary skills. As this unit progresses, students should become proficient in the application of guide words.

Grammar

In grammar, students will review a part of speech introduced at the end of Grade 2: adverbs ending with -ly that tell how an action takes place. They will go further in their study of adverbs by examining those that indicate when and where. Students will be introduced to conjunctions as a new part of speech. They will learn the meanings and usages of the conjunctions and and but.

Morphology

During the morphology portion of the lessons, students will review the suffixes -er, -or, -ist, -ian, -y, and -al. In addition, students will learn the suffixes -ous and -ly. They will review how suffixes change the meaning of root words. They will also review how suffixes added to a word can change the part of speech of that word.

Knowledge: Why the Light and Sound Unit Is Important

This unit will build upon what students have already learned about the five senses and the human body, focusing on the senses of seeing and hearing. Through reading and listening to read-alouds, Students will learn about the properties of light and sound, how light and sound travel in waves, and how light and sound can be manipulated by various instruments, such as magnifying glasses, microscopes, and telescopes. The content students learn in this grade will serve as the basis in later grades for more in-depth study of the human body and the properties of light and sound.

Students will be introduced to this content through a narrative story about two old friends, Samuel and Jack, who are losing their senses of sight and hearing, and their adventures with Samuel's grandchildren, Amy and Ethan.

Curriculum Highlights

Writing

Students have many opportunities to write in a variety of ways and for different purposes. The formal writing piece for the Light and Sound unit is a multi-day research and informative writing project that focuses on writing a newspaper article about the invention of either the telephone or the incandescent light bulb. Students will learn to conduct research, take and organize notes, and use the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit and publish the final newspaper article. The project can be done with or without the use of technology, but having students use computers to research, write, and publish their projects is highly recommended.

Everyday writing opportunities come in many forms, including short and extended responses requiring evidence from the text. Students will also use graphic organizers to gather and categorize information from reading or from the Read-Aloud, or to plan for writing. Many lessons provide opportunities for students to collaborate, share ideas, and give feedback on their writing.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



December 1st: Kylee G.

December 20th: Tula T.

December 28th: Sally G.

December 31st: Naseem A.