

# Third Grade Newsletter

Issue: October 2018

P.S. 173Q

Third Grade Teachers

## Reading

We are starting the school year with building a reading life. In this unit, we are focusing on setting routines and tracking our reading habits with reading logs. During this unit, students will be focusing on developing their literal skills and inferential skills such as monitoring for sense, envisioning, retelling, predicting, and basic theory work. As the unit progresses, we will begin to develop character theories. At the end of the unit, we will transfer and apply everything we have learned about fiction stories to the mystery unit.



## Social Studies

Students have been studying World Geography. Students will learn how to identify oceans and continents. Additionally, students will learn about compass directions and map skills. We will learn how to use compass directions to describe the different locations of continents and oceans.



## Writing

Third graders are learning to craft true stories about their lives. We are taking the children through the writing process to write their best stories. First, children are using various strategies to think and develop story ideas, such as thinking about a special person/place and listing small moments associated with the person/place. Next, students are quickly drafting and making sure they write the story bit by bit and develop it into a story that has a beginning, middle, and end. After that, students are revising their writing by making their characters come to life, adding dialogue, action, thoughts, feelings, and tension. After revision work, students will edit their work and check for capitals, punctuation, and spelling. Finally, students will publish their best piece.



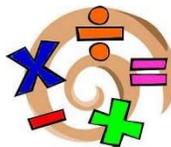
## Science

Scientists and engineers have figured out a way to build a train that actually floats on air as it goes cruising down the track at high speeds. Using similar principles, engineers have created a hoverboard—a device-like a skateboard that floats above a track rather than rolling along the ground. In the Balancing Forces unit, students work to investigate and then explain how these inventions seem to defy logic. Over the course of the unit, through firsthand experiences, discourse, and reading and writing informational text, students will come to understand how forces can cause stability or change in an object's motion. They will discover how magnetic force can be used to counterbalance the force of gravity. They will create physical models, diagram models, and write, and present scientific explanations detailing how the maglev (magnetic levitation) train appears to defy gravity by floating.



## Math

Students are learning many different strategies for solving multiplication problems such as repeated addition, using a number line, and creating an array. Additionally, students will practice fluency with their multiplication facts. Besides working on key skills and strategies throughout the week, students will strengthen their problem-solving skills through word problems and math discussions.



## Important Dates

October 3, 2018 Fall Picture Day  
October 5, 2018 PTA E-Board meeting  
October 9, 2018: No School – Columbus Day  
October 11, 2018: PTA Meeting  
October 18, 2018: PS 173 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
October 19, 2018: PTA Bake Sale  
October 20, 2018: It's My Park Day!  
October 26, 2018: Halloween Dance  
October 31, 2018: March of Dimes Costume Walk  
\*Possible field trip in October – look out for permission slip!