

Grade 3 Newsletter
November 2011
Ms. Bean, Mrs. Brandt, Miss McNabb



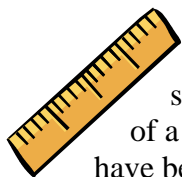
Science

Our classrooms have come alive with the study of animal life cycles. Throughout autumn, we have been observing a cozy box of tiny pets: live mealworms that feast on oat bran and potato chunks. They have slowly transformed from larvae into pupas and finally into darkling beetles that can lay eggs. We have been investigating the life cycles and needs of all sorts of animal groups, such as reptiles and amphibians. Did you know that a dolphin is a mammal? So is a bat!



Of course we are hugely excited about Zoo School in December! We will have the chance to watch specific animals for extended periods each day, and also explore other aspects of zoo life. If you are able to join us for a day (or more), and your volunteer documents are up to date, please let us know.

Math



What time is it? You can ask us, because we have been learning to tell time on an analog clock (the kind with hands). We have also been measuring length with standard units (such as a centimeter) and with non-standard units (such as the width of a finger). We know how to conduct a survey, and record the results on a graph. We have been looking at patterns, and numbers up to 1000.

Language Arts

All subjects, such as science, social studies, and math, involve writing, and we have been writing in a variety of other forms, too. For example, Mrs. Brandt helped us to write information on an online web. We are also sharpening our pencils to write interesting stories. It's important to include juicy details, and to organize story into a beginning, middle, and end. We have been reading silently to ourselves, reading aloud in reader's theatre, and participating in book clubs. We have also enjoyed read-aloud novels and picture books. Careful listening and rich discussions improve our own reading and our writing.



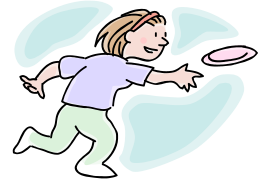
Social Studies

We are world travelers! We have begun our study of Ukraine, India, Peru, and Tunisia, the countries on which we will focus all year. We are learning just where these countries are on the world map, and we're finding out what it's like to live there. We have found that school classrooms can look very different in other parts of the world. A major highlight this term was the visit of Heather from Discover Archaeology. Heather brought lots of fascinating activities, such as putting together an alpaca skeleton, and she set up a dig for us!



Physical Education

In the gym we have played co-operative games and tag. We have learned how to toss a flying disc (Frisbee) with a backhand throw and a forehand throw, and we have been learning the made-in-Canada sport of basketball. It is tricky to dribble with your non-dominant hand.



What can your child do at home?

Everyone loves to hear a good story. Children love it when their parents read or tell stories, and they benefit from reading every night for at least 15 minutes. Even when they can read confidently and silently to themselves, it's great for children to read aloud to their parents and discuss their books. The public library has lots and lots of picture books, chapter books, and non-fiction books at each reader's just-right level. If, for instance, your child wants to read a beginner chapter book, these novels are all grouped together in one section of the children's area. You can borrow books that someone has recorded on a CD. There are also many books that contain both English and another language, such as Hindi or Vietnamese.



Basic addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts are especially helpful when they become quick and automatic for each student. Please help your child by asking math-fact questions in the car, playing card games (such as Snap or Addition War), or looking for math websites on the computer. If you have a learning-to-type program on your computer, it would be great for your child to practice using all of his or her fingers on the keyboard.

And don't forget to send your child outside to play, even when it's cold and snowy. Just bundle up your kids, and make sure their feet, hands, and head are extra-warm and dry.

They can make a snow angel, build a snowman, or construct a snow fort.

