

Welcome to Third Grade!

Mrs. Andresen's Aces



Happy Holidays!

Happy 2012!

December Pizza Hut Book It forms are due on January 9th.

Our goal this month is to read 600 minutes.

Practice addition, subtraction, and multiplication math facts every day at

www.playkidsgames.com

Practice language arts, math, and more at

www.mrnussbaum.com <http://thinkfinity.org> student

Social Studies - We have been busy "travelling" to many countries this month to learn how each celebrates the holidays. We especially enjoy learning about the customs of the countries of our family ancestors. When you are in the school please view our classroom bulletin board titled, "Third Grade's Ancestry" with paper dolls dressed in the costumes of the countries of our ancestors. Our Social Studies unit on communities, immigration, ancestry, and celebrating cultures will continue in January.

Math - Sharpen those math skills! Our next topics in math are **Multiplication Meanings, Strategies and Facts**. Practice makes perfect! Use flash cards and the above links at home to become a "Multiplication Master."

Language Arts - We completed our first theme "Something Special" and compared/contrasted the stories in this theme in literature circles, for character traits, genre, lessons taught through the story, favorite stories/parts, and examples of interesting writing. Making connections, visualizing, noting how a text is organized, determining important information, asking questions, identifying the main idea and supporting details, recognizing sequence, cause/effect, fact and opinion, making inferences, predicting outcomes, identifying the characters, setting, recognizing fantasy/reality, author's purpose, nonfiction text features, visual information, multiple meaning words, context clues, summarizing, and ways to identify words we don't know, are good reader strategies we are learning. We will be reading our first novel, Sarah Plain and Tall, after our winter break, in small groups and with a partner. Discovering our spelling words, examples of repetitive text and colorful words, using context clues to help us define words we don't know, journal responses, chapter summaries, and creating chapter titles by identifying the main idea are some of the activities that will keep us engaged with this novel.

Writers' Workshop - Every week we have been writing for the Kid's Pages in the Hunterdon County Democrat newspaper. It is very exciting to see whose writing gets published! Check out the paper each week for some familiar authors' thoughts about many topics. We have been learning how to make our writing more expressive through the use of colorful words, similes and personal voice in descriptive paragraphs and narratives. Writing to our pen pals in Wallington, New Jersey is a very exciting activity in Writers' Workshop. Our next writing assignments will be an essay and creating a story. Grammar lessons will focus on predicates and verbs.

Science - Our study of rocks and soil begins in January. We will be discovering how rocks form, what minerals are, and why soil is important. Check out this link for cool rocks, minerals, and fossils activities!

<http://www.childrensmuseum.org/geomysteries/mysteries.html>

