

Mrs. Simmons' Classroom News

January 20, 2012

Academic News

In language arts we have been working on writing paragraphs with topic sentences and detail sentences that follow. Students have written three different draft pieces over the past two weeks: one on their family members, one on their favorite activities to do, and one on the things they like about Woodview Elementary or being in third grade. Students have now chosen one of those to revise and edit with a partner. Students will then publish the one they chose and that will be scored by me.

We are almost done with our cursive lessons and will finish our cursive books next week. Students will then have the option of writing in cursive for their written work. Many of them are very eager! They have been doing a wonderful job learning the formation of the lower case and upper case letters.

For reading lessons we have been working with different resources and learning about their purposes. We have explored encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, magazines, dictionaries, thesauruses, and the internet. Students have been learning about the different text features found in each of these resources and have practiced using them, including the table of contents, index, glossary, bolded words, italicized words, titles and subtitles, etc. Students will take a test on these resources and text features early next week. We will be back into our reading groups and be reading our leveled books next week as well. We will also have new word work words to learn and study.

In math we have continued to learn strategies for learning the basic multiplication facts. We did take two days to review the concept of area by designing some rooms for the "Balobbies," a group of small people that measure in centimeter units. Students really enjoyed making the Balobby rooms and did some impressive work by calculating the total area of the rooms. We had an ISD math consultant, Lynn Helene, in our classroom to observe and she loved what she saw! We have also had lessons about the basic division facts and how they relate to the multiplication facts by forming fact families. Students will begin to take timed multiplication tests starting on Monday.

We have finished chapter 4 in social studies and have taken the test. Students will have the results on Monday. On Monday we will begin chapter 5 which focuses on the topic of the beginning of Michigan's economy with farming and the logging and mining industries. Students will learn about the lives of farmers, lumberjacks, and miners of Michigan. They will certainly read about the hard work these people endured to make Michigan a leader in many industries.

Please, turn over. More on back!

Important Dates

- Jan. 24—3rd Grade Curriculum Carnival 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 27—Book Orders Due
- Feb. 6—No School
- Feb. 14—Classroom Valentine's Day Party
- Feb. 17—20—No School Mid-Winter Break



Contact Information for Mrs. Simmons

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Come to the Third Grade Curriculum Carnival

The third grade teachers will be hosting a “Third Grade Curriculum Carnival” for all third graders and their parents on Tuesday, January 24th from 6:00—7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to see and experience what their child is doing in third grade. Stations will be set up in each classroom where you will participate in different subject area activities with your child—reading, writing, math, science, and technology! Each third grade student that attends will receive a “goody bag” filled with curriculum supplies to use at home. You will also have the opportunity to try a nutritional snack! A flyer with more information is coming home today. If you have any questions, please, contact me at school by phone or email. I hope to see all of my students and their parents at this awesome night of learning!

Book Order Coming Home Today

I am sending home the January Scholastic book order today. **Book orders are due on Friday, January 27th.** You can send the order in to me at school or order books online. If you write a check, please, make it out to “Scholastic Book Clubs.” Thank you!

Classroom Valentine’s Day Party is Approaching!


We will be having our classroom Valentine’s Day party on Tuesday, February 14th from 2:00—2:45 p.m. All parents are invited to attend! Students will be eating food and exchanging valentines. I am sending home a party slip asking that each student provide \$3.00 for the party. We will be having a pizza party along with other foods. The slip also provides a list of students, paraprofessionals, and teachers that are in our classroom. Students are welcome to bring valentines in at any time. Please know that if your child includes a candy with their valentine that students will not be able to eat the candy at school. It is okay for them to take the candy home with them though. If you have any questions, please, contact me at school.

Weekly Reading Logs Will Be Starting

Starting on Monday, January 23rd students will be bringing home a weekly reading log in their agendas. Students will be required to read at least 20 minutes each night. The logs will be sent home each Monday and need to be returned the following Monday. Students are not required to read over the weekend, but they can. I ask that students record the title of the book, the number of pages read, and the number of minutes read. Parents will sign at the bottom of the reading log verifying that their child did the reading. Students can read anything they would like, but it would be most beneficial for them to read books that they can test on at school. Most children’s books can be found on our Accelerated Reader program at school and students can earn points by taking a comprehension test on each book they read. Students can accumulate points and use their points to “buy” prizes at our AR Store. Students can read to themselves, to a brother or sister, or YOU!

We Are Still Collecting Box Tops for Education

We are still collecting box tops to earn money for our classroom. I am asking that you send in any Box Tops that you may find on your food items. You can find these Box Tops on many different food and household products. Make sure you check boxes and labels before throwing anything away. Every Box Top is worth 10¢, so they can add up quickly. Any money our classroom earns will be used to buy classroom supplies and games.



Websites to Explore for Math

Below you will find a list of websites that your child can explore for math. Many of these sites have games that students can play to help them with basic math concepts. We are currently working on the basic multiplication facts. It is important that your child memorize these so they are prepared to learn other math concepts that are taught throughout third grade and the grades that follow. Starting on Monday, students will be taking timed multiplication quizzes. All students will begin with the ones facts and then progress to the twos and so on until they master all facts through the tens. Students will move at their own pace. These quizzes will be done daily (unless time does not permit it or I am not at school). If you do not have access to the internet, students can also use multiplication flash cards to help them study the facts.

www.mathplayground.com

www.multiplication.com

www.funbrain.com

www.mathisfun.com

www.mrnussbaum.com/mathcode.htm

Oh, the Weather Outside is Cold!

Please make sure your child is coming to school with the proper outdoor attire. Students go outside unless the temperature OR wind chill is zero degrees or lower. Students need to be prepared with a heavy coat, snow-pants, boots, gloves, and a hat each day.

Students are only allowed to bring a sled to school if a parent drops it off and picks it up. Students are not allowed to take sleds on the bus.