

November

Math:

The 3rd graders have been busy adding and subtracting greater numbers over the past few weeks. They have been learning when to estimate and when they need an exact number. Words like "about" and "almost" signal that you will need to round numbers before solving. Please encourage your child to practice their addition and subtraction facts daily. The children are continuing to grow as they apply their problem solving strategies in Target the Question. We are reviewing our place value skills and exposing them to new items as we add TEKS Targets to our daily routine. Our next unit is "Multiplication." It is very important for the students to understand the meaning of multiplication before learning the facts. We will focus on key vocabulary words such as "multiply," "factor," "product," and "array." Games like "How Long? How Many?" will help us understand that: *Multiplication is repeated addition. *Multiplication can be represented visually using arrays. *Skip counting by a number is the same as multiplying by 1, 2, 3 and so on. We will continue to focus on specific strategies and learning the 144 multiplication combinations from 1x1 to 12x12.

Reading:

In October our students have been working hard on activating and connecting. Connecting to text and applying what you already know about the subject you are reading helps readers become excited about what they are reading. We will continue practicing this strategy throughout the second six weeks and will begin studying asking questions in the third six weeks. Remember to encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes each night in a book that interests them.

Writing:

Our writer's have just published their first piece of writing in Third Grade. We will continue to fine tune our writing throughout November as we collect new "seed stories" and learn new strategies to improve our personal narrative writing.

Spelling:

Please help your child to remember that spelling homework is to be completed each night. They are responsible for turning in two assignments a week (they are due on Tuesdays and on Thursdays). Homework should always be completed neatly on notebook paper and should be returned on time.

Science and Social Studies:

In November the Third Graders will be learning about ecosystems and then focusing in on the Deciduous Forest. They will be doing this through a variety of hands-on projects, games, and research. In Social Studies we will begin a unit on Westward Expansion. The students will be saddling up as pioneers while they embark on the Oregon Trail through an integrated study of westward expansion through Reading and Writing.

*The best times
are always found
when friends & family
gather 'round....*

