



Welcome Fall

The beauty of fall is upon us.
We say goodbye to the summer
weather and say hello to God's
beauty of autumn. Let us pray.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye
to their green, letting go of what has been.
We, too, have our moments of surrender,
with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to
let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns
on the ground, our lives have their own
patterns. As we see the patterns of our own
growth, may we learn from them.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened
grain, many gifts lie within the season of our
surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith
and hope. Grant us patience when we do not
see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season,
your wisdom enables us to know what needs
to be left behind and what needs to be
carried into the future. We yearn for insight
and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and
windows wearing white designs, may your
love keep our hearts from growing cold in
the empty seasons. - by Joyce Rupp, in "May
I Have this Dance?"



As part of the third grade language arts standards, we have been reading and studying many different types of poetry. We are working on building fluency and expression while enjoying some really entertaining poems. Below is an example of one of the poems that we enjoyed.

The Missing Cookie

The cookie on the cookie jar
Somehow just walked away.
I wondered who inside our house
Helped cookie get away.

My sister shook her head "Not me."
My mom said, "Certainly not!"
My dad said, "I can't eat those things.
They make my white teeth rot."

We all looked down at our dog, Max,
Whose eyes told us the truth.
Max somehow had found a way
To feed his cookie tooth.

Terra Nova

Whew! We are all finished with Terra Nova testing. Thank you very much for helping to keep your child's stress level to a minimum, sending in a healthy snack each day,

giving him/her a proper breakfast and making sure he/she got a good night's rest. All of these things played an important role in the success of our testing. We are back to our regu-

lar routine at school, which means that our nightly homework resumes. Please make sure your child is reading for at least 20 minutes each night.

Language Arts

READING

WORKSHOP

We have been busy in our guided reading groups. Our leveled readers have been giving each child the individualized skill practice that he/she needs. Each week the groups are given new books to help build their comprehension, fluency,

expression and vocabulary skills. The stories are short and sweet, but are packed with activities, lessons and discussions that are bringing your readers to the next level. As mentioned on page one of this newsletter, we use poetry to enhance our enjoyment of reading. At the end of the 2nd quarter, we will

be conducting the DRA again to see how much reading growth is taking place.

SPELLING

Please be sure that your child complete the nightly spelling homework. The more your child is exposed to his/her sort, the more he/she will be prepared for the test.

WRITING WORKSHOP

WOW! Your child is now an author. We just finished up our first writing piece on a personal narrative of your child's choice. Each child took the piece from just a list in his/her writer's notebook to an author's celebration and publication in a class book. Since the beginning of the year, we have been working on strategies for coming up with ideas for writing, as well as what to do when we get stuck. We have the quote in writer's workshop, "When you think you are done, you have only just begun!" We also worked on strong leads and powerful endings. The use of transition words was something we tried, too. We are so proud of our little authors. You should be, too!

Our next unit of study is called "Raising the Quality of Narrative Writing." We will learn how to emulate some of our favorite authors.

Religion

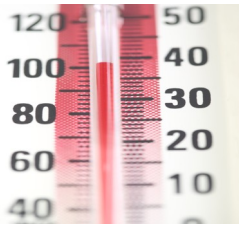
We are really in the thick of things! Changes to our Mass are coming in the very near future. We have been spending our time teaching your child the changes that he/she will see and hear

during Mass. We are using the What's New About Mass by Maureen A. Kelly to help us with the release of these changes. What is great about this book is that not only do we see and

hear the changes that are coming, we also get to tighten our knowledge of the parts of the Mass and what they mean and how they came to be. Ask you child about the changes they are learning.



Math



What better way to talk about the changing temperatures outside than to learn about Fahrenheit and Celsius? We explored thermometers to learn how to read degrees in both Fahrenheit

and Celsius. After engaging in several activities and scenarios, we culminated our unit with role playing. Each group was given a temperature in Celsius. The first job was to translate the given degree into Fahrenheit. The next job was to list as many activities as possible that would be reasonable to perform in that temperature. After that, each group chose one activity from the list and role played it for the class. The

class had to guess what activity was being shown and during what season the activity could be performed. Finally, the students in the group that was presenting shared the degree in Celsius and Fahrenheit and explained how they translated their degree from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Science

We took a break from talking about health related topics to learn about rocks and minerals in science. First, we talked and all the properties that are used to identify a mineral. We explored luster, color, hardness and cleavage of several minerals.

We also investigated several different types of minerals by conducting a scratch test to determine their hardness. We used a paper clip, penny and our own fingernails to help us classify our minerals from soft to hard. We also looked at all the birthstones

that made up the birthday months of the children in our class. Then, we made a graph to show our results. We will be moving on to exploring rocks and then comparing and contrasting rocks and minerals.

Social Studies

If you gave a third grader a map or a globe, they can show you where the equator, Arctic/Antarctic Circles, North/South Poles, Prime Meridian, Tropic of Capricorn/Cancer, and the hemispheres are located.

Geography has really been a strong focus of study for us this first quarter. We began by identifying the important parts of a map, like a compass rose, map key and map scale. Then we moved on to ordinal and cardinal directions. We followed with a

focus on the important imaginary divisions on a map.



“If you don’t know where you are, how can you find where you are going?”

Accelerated Reader Update

Accelerated Reader is off to a great start in third grade! As parents of third grade students, you will see the AR program become more important in your child's daily independent reading growth. The reasons for this include the proven statistical data we receive about what she or he is reading successfully and how much reading practice he/she is participating in daily. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, students will have monthly AR goals. The purpose for the AR goal is to expose students to various genres of literature and to insure they are "practicing" reading to improve their comprehension.

During the month of October students were consistently coached and advised on meeting their October AR goal. I'm happy to share with you that the third grade students have taken a total of 551 AR quizzes since the beginning of the school year, and received an average correct score of 87.7%. AR guidelines encourage students to achieve an 85% correct goal for optimum reading growth to occur. I will share individual student results with you at parent-teacher conferences.

November's AR goal is one historical fiction book and one non-fiction book in the student's level.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Mosko

