

3VT

Upcoming Events

- 10/31 Jump with Jill Assembly 1:30-2:30
- 10/31 Bring a stuffed animal to school-(for students who are in the homework club)
- 11/1 Social Studies Test on Michigan
- 11/6 Report cards go home
- 11/6,7,8 Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/21 Team Event
- 11/22 Bill Vits Concert

This week

•English Language Arts

- This week we'll be working hard toward our individual reading goals. I am excited to see how the kids do as they take ownership of their read to self time and work toward these goals.
- We are going to do some writing (and illustrating!) of our trip to Lansing that will be displayed for you to see during conferences.
- We are back to "regularly scheduled" spelling this week.

•Math

- On Tuesday I'll be doing an informal subtraction assessment .
- We will spend the rest of the week studying problem solving and algebraic concepts (yes really!). This is a new part of our curriculum based on the Common Core standards. I'm excited to stretch the kids math thinking this way!

•Science/Social Studies

- We are doing some cross-curricular writing as we write about our Lansing Field Trip and will be pulling in as many "Social Studies" words as we can. This week we will also be learning about our state senator, and many of our state symbols.
- I'm hoping the weather cooperates and we can spend sometime outside this week to work on our nature journals. We will be adding the concept of writing about one things up close ("snap shot" writing) and recording lots of detail. We will also reflect on what our sit spots make us think about God.

•Bible

We continue to study in depth the stories of Abraham and the covenants God made him. This week our stories are:

- Abram and Sarai in Egypt
- Lot's Choice
- Hagar and Ishmael
- God's covenant with Abraham
- 3 Visitors

"Ticket Out My Door"

Just in the last week or so I've used the "ticket out my door" strategy with the third graders. I'd used it when I taught middle school but never before in 3rd grade.

Basically, they have to tell me (or write down) something before they may leave for the day. Today they had to tell me something they learned in Lansing, last week they had to tell me one of God's promises to Abraham. It is a great way to make them responsible for their own learning—and would also be a great way for you to find out what they did at school ("what was your ticket out the door today?").

It was a blessing to be able to attend the CEA conference in South Bend last week. (a small part of the blessing was driving in a quiet car, with the music of my choice, and to sip my Starbucks alone!) I'm excited to share some of the knowledge I gleaned with you and your children, it was great to connect with some other Christian school teachers and "talk shop," as well as to worship together in a mass meeting.

SEASONS . . .

We are feeling the "seasons of life" at the Van Til house these days. On Tuesday of this week we are putting our family dog Arlo to sleep. He's ten and has been quite sick, but this looms large for my little family. In September my husband lost his beloved Gramps and flew to Washington to go to his funeral. We watch the leaves (and seasons) turn and feel more than ever that "to everything there is a season." We cling more than ever to God's promises. It is such a gift to be able to go into school and talk to your children about the stories of Abraham and his faithfulness and obedience to God during times of trial.

Thank you for sharing your child with me!

Melissa