

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16...

Important things to know (aka even if you don't read the rest of the newsletter you should read this!)

- Monday—Hot lunch starts (hot dog day)
- Thursday—First team event, Team picnic, students will eat with their teams on the North lawn, please still pack a peanut free lunch!
- Friday—Our first Bible Memory verse, Psalm 27:1, first Science Test (info will go home Weds), spelling test



3VT

CURRICULUM THIS WEEK...

•ELA (ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)

We have been practicing the procedures of the Daily 5 by Reading to Self and Reading to someone (check out the photos under “Pictures of Things We’re Learning.” Both of things help us become better readers and build our reading stamina. Last week during Read to Someone” we read Grandfathers Journey from our reading book. This week we’ll be doing a bit more work with this story, as well as adding another block “Working with Words.”

•MATH

So far in math we have been studying graphs. We looked at pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and pie charts. We even surveyed our classmates and made our own graphs (they are currently on display on our door, and will come home in about a week). This week we are moving on to a week long study of place value, decimals, and will end with a brief review of money. We will also be starting Rocket Math this week.

•SOCIAL STUDIES

I neglected to mention orientation night that in 3rd grade we alternated Social Studies and Science Units. Throughout the year we consistently do Daily Geography, though. For the month of September we are sticking with Science. We are currently in a physical science unit. We are talking about force, friction, and work. We have been doing a lot of hands on activities and have also spent some time learning about Sir Isaac Newton.

•BIBLE

The kids did an excellent job on their first Bible test (it will go home on Monday). Now we are starting a short unit on being a Bible Explorer. It covers navigating through the Bible using footnotes, finding passages, etc.

•HANDWRITING

This week we are wrapping up our review of manuscript and we *should* start cursive.

•SPELLING

Adding the “Working with Words” block this week will allow the kids lots of opportunities to practice their words at school.

•I've just finished the RTI testing for this fall. Your parent letters should go home this week Wednesday. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs. Karen Postmus will be helping out in 3VT four days a week. For the most part she will be pulling students out of the classroom who need supplemental instruction, prereading, etc. based on the student's RTI scores. Mrs. Postmus has spent the past several years as a parapro in the middle school and I'm thrilled to have her join us in the elementary wing!

READ ALOUDS . . .

Reading research tells us that reading out loud to children is incredibly important. It also tells us that often we give up reading out loud to children way too soon. In addition children are able to comprehend what is read to them several years above their independent reading level. Reading a variety of stories to them opens their brains up to a myriad of connections that they may not have in their every day life. It is also just plain fun. 😊

I absolutely love reading aloud to my class. I often (but not always) apply the "several years above" rule in my read alouds. There are some stories that I automatically read each year (I often start the school year, as I did this one, with The BFG by Roald Dahl) but I also love to pick stories based on what an individual class enjoys or to find something new.

The bulk of our in-class reading is done while the students are eating lunch, but I often sneak in five or ten minutes when we finish work early, students are practicing their handwriting, etc.

I encourage to ask your student what we're reading in class!