October 2017

Dear Parents,

 I can’t believe we have been in school 10 weeks already! We are working hard in third grade and learning new things everyday. Your students are becoming independent and taking on responsibility for their learning.

 Groups of students read mystery novels in class. They had questions to answer that guided discussions and showed understanding. Often, students had to find evidence in the text to support their answers. It was hard work, but well worth it. We have started our unit on nonfiction. The books chosen by our reading series, Schoolwide, are great. Students are very engaged in the subject of the books as they are learning new skills to help them navigate nonfiction independently. Your child may have come home with interesting facts about wolves, butterflies, photographing snowflakes, and tongues! We’ve read about all of these things.

 Math is challenging this year, but your children are working hard. We are finishing our unit on regrouping (borrowing) with four-digit subtraction. The unit test is next week and then we start a unit on using models to solve word problems. For all of this work, students need to know their math facts. Please make sure they are practicing math facts; addition, subtraction, and multiplication nightly. This practice is considered their homework along with reading each night. Having to use counters and their fingers slow them down and increases the chance of error.

 Weather and Climate are what we are learning about in science. We have discussed the difference between the two and where weather happens. We will be learning about how weather is forecasted and the tools used to do that. We will end the unit with small groups doing research on a specific kind of weather. Your child may show an increased interest in the forecast on TV.

 As we are nearing the end of October, the weather changes. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for outside play. They go outside at lunch and in the afternoon everyday unless it is raining. Being dressed for the weather helps your child enjoy this time with friends.

 Parent/Teacher conferences are the week of Thanksgiving. Make sure to sign up for a time to come in and talk.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joanne Cooke