

September, 2017

Dear Third Grade Families,

Welcome to third grade!!

Throughout the year, students will develop their skills as readers, writers and thinkers across the curriculum. This letter will describe the focus of the first unit and what you can do at home to support your student's learning. You will receive a similar letter before each unit.

### **Focus**

This first unit will focus on narrative reading and writing. Students will read narrative text and develop their ability to gather details and grow ideas about text in order to see how books connect to their world. They will look at narrative text elements (character, setting, problem, resolution) to support their construction of message, lesson or moral and use multiple texts to develop those ideas. As writers, they will create stories with those same story elements, using structures and techniques to help readers understand their ideas.

### **Home Support**

You can help your child at home in several ways:

- Encourage your child to read every night.
- Talk with your child about what they read. Ask about (in fiction):
  - The main character (Who are they? What are they like?),
  - Where and when the story takes place (setting),
  - What is wrong in the story (most stories have a problem),
  - How the problem develops? How the main character responds to it?
- Find the best time and place for homework and establish a routine.
- Talk to your child about his/her day at school. Share the day's ups and downs.
- Look at the work your child brings home. Praise your child for his/her hard work!

We're looking forward to a year of discovery and new learning!

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team