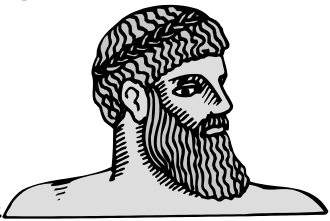


Room 119 Newsletter

January 2012

Parents/guardians,

Happy New Year! Did you know that we are 'knee deep' into studying myths from Greek, Native American and African cultures for reading? During this genre unit we



Zeus

are working to develop theories about characters by analyzing their character traits, feelings, motives, and points of view. This has been a very deep and focused unit.

To help students learn more about important characters, I am sending home a project that will be due in two weeks. Students have a choice in the project that they want to undertake. The rubric by which your child's work will be graded is on the back.

When working with your child on this project I ask that you allow your child to be creative and take the ownership. While I encourage you to support your child I do ask that the work be that of the students. I hope you understand.

For the month of February the third grade team has two very special

learning opportunities planned. On February 1st, we will be teaming up with Mrs. Lancaster's class to go to BlackAcre on a science-social studies field trip. Then during the whole week of February 6, Stage One will be working with students to develop their common core speaking, listening skills and literature skills to act out mythological characters and scenes!

Currently students have signed up to present the poems that they have memorized to present during morning meetings. During this time I have been videotaping students. Peers have also commented on one another's strengths and next steps. Some of the skills we are working on are: rate, fluency, expression, making eye contact with the audience, and holding our bodies into one position. Peer comments to one another are very professional and taken with understanding from the presenters. Everyone that has presented pretty much expressed wanting to do a re-do, just because they have the motivation to always do their best! 😊

In writing we have begun to do research on the topics chosen by students. Each child has zoomed into a topic and has developed 3 questions from which they will work to find answers. The next two weeks we will be going to the computer lab to conduct our research, cite resources, and learn how to take dash-fact notes. If your child would like to access the page to conduct their research at home just have your child type this

into the at the top of the webpage <http://3rdgraderoom119.wikispaces.com/research> The students have been taught how to do this and should be very familiar with this process. If you need to contact me, I will be glad to help in any way.

Students took their district assessments in both math and social studies. I will be placing a sticker in every child's agenda letting you know the results of these assessments.

On **February 8th** students will have their **science test on sound**. I will give your child a study guide that they can use to read in order to prepare for this assessment. This will be in their agenda Tuesday. In addition we will be reading these and reviewing them in class.

Before the genre study with myths, students worked through a **genre unit on poetry**. During this time learned how to identify figurative language, alliteration, metaphors, similes, idioms, shades of meaning, multiple meaning words, stanzas, lines, rhythm & rhyme, and onomatopoeia. They read two Robert Frost poems. If you get a chance to stop by the classroom check out the hallway for student work. It's pretty phenomenal how the students worked to analyze the meaning and wrote reader response entries to show their thinking!

The past week I have been working with your children in assessing them on their **winter reading levels**. I am

delighted to say that everyone made gains! By the end of the week I will place a sticker in your child's agenda to share their progress with you.

In math students continue to work with multiplication. They are learning what prime and composite means and how to identify visually these numbers as well as explain why a number is prime or composite. Students are also figuring out the dimensions of arrays. On Friday's we have been going to the computer lab to access both Study Island, Timez Attack, as well as, work on writing mathematical answers to short answer questions.

If you have not already done so ...please start working with your child to memorize their multiplication facts up to 12. Here are some great websites that you can access for materials. This site has flashcards that you can download to work with your child.

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/math/multiplication/flashcards/>

While this week may seem like a lot of homework; I want to assure you that I will work with the students to get the majority done together as a class. They will be responsible for just a few independent tasks, which should make working on the myth project a little bit more manageable.

In science students are working to learn about sound, how it travels through vibrations, what pitch is

compared to volume, and the various ways in which sound is made.

FYI....January is National Thank You Month... So parents/guardians... THANK you for being such great parents and guardians! I love working with your children!!! ☺

Want to read some funny poems with your kids? Just go to <http://www.brownielocks.com/childrenspoems.html>

If you need some resources for the myth projects, here are some really nice web resources:

<http://www.greekmythology.com/>

http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Main_Page/

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002356F/godlibrary.htm> (info about Greek gods/goddesses)

<http://www.greek-gods.info/>