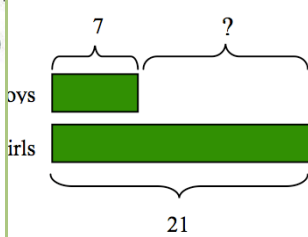


# Third Grade Circular



October 21, 2013

## Reading

Our students are working hard to build a greater understanding of inferring in the context of visualizing and predicting in our books. We know from second grade that when we predict we think about what might happen in the story based on what has happened so far. As third graders we predict what a character might do and HOW they do it. The “how” of predicting is where the visualizing comes in. **Tip: Encourage readers to predict before they start reading each night. Remember these predictions should tell what they think the character will do and how.**

## Writing

As we come to the end of our first unit of writing, students will take time to reflect on their learning. As we have discussions with students about their strengths and areas of growth, we will make a plan for growth for our Fiction Unit. Students will apply their understanding of how stories go from reading in their writing for this unit. **Tip: Have your child share their thoughts about the strengths and areas of growth in writing. You might ask about elaboration (the use of dialogue, clear actions, and internal thoughts) or structure (paragraphing and punctuation).**

## Math

The students in all math classes have completed their chapter 4 test this week. In this chapter we extended our understanding of subtraction up to the thousands. Within this chapter and the previous one, our students were asked to solve real world problems. We encourage students to use their knowledge of bar models when solving these problems. In our next chapter students will learn about solving more complex problems using bar models. **Tip: View this Bar Modeling video in preparation of our next unit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jVKeTVwFqw>**

## Science: Structures of Life

Third graders in 3A have begun their Structures of Life science unit. The unit began with the students observing the structures and behaviors of two live animals - the crayfish and the Bess beetle. This then lead into a broader discussion of how animals all over the Earth have structural and behavioral adaptations to help them survive in their ecosystem. Students have also begun studying the life cycle of plants when they planted Brassica plant seeds. Also, the concept of food chains is being introduced.

## Social Studies

The students in Mrs. McKenna's room are wrapping up the geography unit. In the next weeks they will build an understanding of how humans interact with their environment. Then they will take the test and begin research. The students in Mr. Chaney's class are building an understanding of relative location in their study of the continents and oceans. **Tip: Encourage your child to watch BrainPop videos on geography during their computer time at home. Username: meramec;**

## Spelling

The spelling pattern for the next couple of weeks will center around vowel sounds. We encourage student to apply their understanding of these spelling patterns to help them decode words in their reading.

## Important Dates

10-31 Fall Pumpkin Parade/Parties  
11-1 Parent Principal Coffee

## Halloween Costume Tips

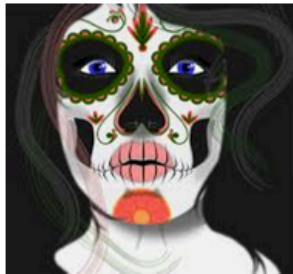
No Masks



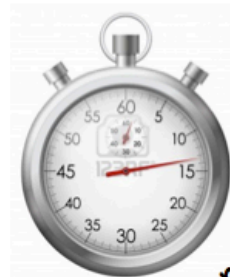
Have FUN!



No Weapons



No Makeup



Costume changes must be quick!